

2015-J6522

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Gerald J. O'Brien posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Gerald J. O'Brien posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be celebrated at the Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on Monday, January 9, 2017, at the Rensselaer County Office Building's Hall of Heroes, Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Born May 24, 1934, in Troy, New York, Gerald J. O'Brien was born to Joseph and Margaret (Hickey) O'Brien; he attended Saint Augustine's School, Catholic Central High School, and Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Gerald J. O'Brien served his country as a member of the United States Navy as a Seabee during the Korean War from 1953 through 1955; his exceptional service earned him the National Defense Service

Medal; and

WHEREAS, After returning home from his assignment, Gerald J. O'Brien started working full-time with Niagara Mohawk as a meter reader, and retired after 42 years as a Supervisor in the Gas Department; and

WHEREAS, A faithful communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Troy, New York, Gerald J. O'Brien served in many ministries; he also volunteered with Community Hospice for more than 20 years, and served as a Eucharistic Minister at Saint Mary's Hospital in Troy; and

WHEREAS, Gerald J. O'Brien's favorite past times were reading, kayaking, and golfing; he enjoyed winters in Florida with his wife of 58 years, Barbara, and loved traveling with his family, especially to the sea and Gloucester, his special place; and

WHEREAS, Gerald J. O'Brien died on Monday, May 9, 2016, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his son, Troy Police Sergeant James O'Brien, Gerald J. O'Brien was a loving and caring husband to his wife, Barbara (Kelly) O'Brien, and a caring father to Susan Wyld, Kathleen, Sharon Vest, Maureen Pace and Sally, and his four grandchildren, Casey, Aileen, Kelly and Michael; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Gerald J. O'Brien demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Gerald J. O'Brien posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Gerald J. O'Brien.