

2017-J4557

Senate Resolution No. 4557

BY: Senator MARCHIONE

COMMENDING James J. Lant 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, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace in peace-time, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend James J. Lant 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 presented at the Saratoga County Honor A Deceased Veteran Ceremony on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at the County Building in Ballston Spa, 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 on April 28, 1919, in Argyle, New York, James J. Lant attended Greenwich High School until 1935; and

WHEREAS, James J. Lant entered into the United States Army on May 16, 1942; he proudly served his country as an Infantry Squad Leader with the 337th Infantry Regiment during World War II; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1944, James J. Lant and the 337th landed in Casablanca, Morocco, to prepare for the invasion of Italy in late March of that year; the Regiment then participated in the Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley campaigns in the Mediterranean Theater as part of the Italian Campaign; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during World War II, James J. Lant was awarded the Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with 3 Bronze Campaign Stars, and the American Theater Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, After the completion of his military service, James J. Lant returned to Saratoga County and married Kathleen Lant on August 18, 1946; together, the couple raised five children, John, James, Jerry, Karen and Roberta; and

WHEREAS, From 1960-2000, James J. Lant owned and operated Lant's Auto Sales; an animal lover, he also owned and raced many horses at the Saratoga Harness Track; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his fellow veterans, James J. Lant was a vital member of American Legion Post 70, Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420, and the Dominick Smaldone Italian American War Veterans Post 35; and

WHEREAS, James J. Lant also belonged to the Wilton Senior Center and was a Friend of Grant's Cottage; 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, James J. Lant 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 commend James J. Lant 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 James J. Lant.