

## 2017-J5265

Senate Resolution No. 5265

BY: Senator MARCHIONE

HONORING Bob Nevins upon the occasion of his  
designation for special recognition by the Saratoga  
WarHorse Foundation on August 13, 2018

WHEREAS, The unity of our State and Nation is built upon the  
compassion of individuals such as Bob Nevins who uphold the values of  
community life and who, through their great actions, epitomize the best  
of humanity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Bob Nevins  
upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the  
Saratoga WarHorse Foundation, to be celebrated at its Annual Blue  
Spangled Gala on Monday, August 13, 2018, at the Hall of Springs,  
Saratoga Springs, New York; and

WHEREAS, Bob Nevins valiantly served his country during the Vietnam  
War as a highly decorated medical evacuation helicopter pilot for the  
101st Airborne; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1971, while overseas, Bob Nevins was flying a  
rescue mission when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his chopper; the  
blast instantly killed two crewmembers and sent the craft hurdling down  
upon the jungle floor in a mass of smoke and flames; and

WHEREAS, Miraculously, Bob Nevins survived the crash and spent several weeks recuperating from a series of cuts and burns, yet instead of immediately returning stateside, he courageously chose to finish his tour; and

WHEREAS, Bob Nevins' duty to country and his fellow soldiers was unflappable, though the events of that day had changed his life forever; and

WHEREAS, Once home, Bob Nevins found work flying commercial helicopters, and in 1989, he took a job as a pilot with American Eagle Airlines, flying to various destinations along the Eastern seaboard; he also renewed his dedication to service as a chopper pilot in the New York National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Bob Nevins took an early retirement as an Airline Captain to devote his efforts to his non-profit organization, now known as Saratoga WarHorse; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Bob Nevins, Saratoga WarHorse offers veterans a three-day experience that has proven to be effective and invaluable for those struggling to adjust to life after military service; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga WarHorse provides a new experience with a focus on posttraumatic stress and suicide prevention which is a vastly different approach from traditional talk therapy; the process facilitates a profound personal connection between veteran and horse, seemingly unlocking a part of the veteran that has been closed down for years; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the program is provided at no cost to the

veterans and has now graduated over 600 at-risk veterans; and

WHEREAS, Through Bob Nevins' vision, Saratoga WarHorse is taking action by becoming an integral part of the solution to the growing problem of emotional wounds suffered by military service men and women; it is truly an experience that profoundly changes the lives of both the veterans and the horses; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Bob Nevins has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Bob Nevins, that future generations may know and appreciate his admirable character, his many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which he is held by his peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Bob Nevins upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Saratoga WarHorse Foundation on August 13, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bob Nevins.