

2017-J5929

Senate Resolution No. 5929

BY: Senator KENNEDY

COMMENDING Frank Garguiolo 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 Frank Garguiolo upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; 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, Frank Garguiolo was born on July 11, 1913, the youngest of seven children born to Italian immigrants Luigi Garguiolo and Anna Pagano; he spent the first 11 years of his life in Cheektowaga, New York, before he and his family moved to a house their father built in the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Upon the passing of his father, Frank Garguiolo was left at the age of 13 to help his mother provide financially for the family; despite this hardship, he was invested in his education while attending Buffalo Public School No. 43 and Boys High School in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Frank Garguiolo worked as a laborer for the Standard Mirror Company through high school, and then enlisted in the United States Army on April 8, 1943, at the age of 19 to fight for America during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Frank Garguiolo served in one of the most decorated units in World War II, the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army; he trained as an anti-aircraft specialist, participated in many fierce battles with heavy casualties, and was hospitalized for an illness while in Africa; and

WHEREAS, After fighting back to health, he continued to demonstrate leadership in service; he rose to the rank of Corporal, participated in landings in Italy, and was involved in the occupation of Rome-Arno; and

WHEREAS, His final assignment was on October 30, 1944, in St. Die, France; in that battle, his entire unit was killed and he was taken

prisoner of war by German soldiers; held captive for six months at Moosburg prison, he was forced to endure hard labor excavating bombed out buildings in Munich; and

WHEREAS, Through the bravery of an ally in England, Frank Garguiolo's family learned in a letter that he was still alive and they should not give up hope; he still has that letter to this day; and

WHEREAS, In early May of 1945, Corporal Frank Garguiolo and the other prisoners of war were liberated by his own division, the 3rd Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, Frank Garguiolo still bears the physical and emotional scars that demonstrate his bravery in the face of unspeakable horrors, including PTSD and permanent knee injuries; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Frank Garguiolo was honorably discharged from the United States military on October 14, 1945, and received the Purple Heart medal with Oak Leaf Cluster on January 6, 1945, in recognition of the injuries he sustained by the enemy; and

WHEREAS, Later, Frank Garguiolo found employment at General Motors, Gordon Roberts, Bethlehem Steel, and eventually the Buffalo Sewer Authority where he worked for 26 years and served as Sergeant at Arms for the employees union; and

WHEREAS, An accordion player, Frank Garguiolo met his future wife, Lillian Shiavone, at a restaurant in Lovejoy where he was performing; the two married on April 23, 1949, and had one daughter, Debbie; and

WHEREAS, In addition to receiving the Purple Heart medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for outstanding service and sacrifices while serving in World War II, Corporal Garguiolo was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three bronze service stars, one silver service star and bronze arrowhead,

Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button; and

WHEREAS, Most notably, he was personally presented the French Legion of Honor Award by French Honorary Consul Pascal Soares from the French Consulate on June 23, 2017, for his participation in the liberation of France; and

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; Frank Garguiolo is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of such high standards, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Frank Garguiolo 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 Frank Garguiolo.