

2013-J373

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Major General Stephen J. Townsend upon the occasion of his selection as 10th Mountain Division Commander

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 peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend those who have served in times of active conflict, as well as those who have served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Major General Stephen J. Townsend upon the occasion of his selection as 10th Mountain Division Commander, celebrated at a change-of-command Ceremony on Monday, December 3, 2012, at the Magrath Sports Complex in Watertown, New York; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend graduated from North Georgia College in 1982, and was commissioned through ROTC; and

WHEREAS, Major General Townsend has had two previous tours with the 10th Mountain Division (LI); his initial assignment was with the 82d Airborne Division where he served as a platoon leader, executive officer and assistant S3 in the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 505th Infantry and deployed for Operation Urgent Fury, Grenada; and

WHEREAS, After the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division (Light) at Fort Ord, California where he served as the battalion S3 of 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry and commanded Alpha Company; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was then reassigned to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served as the S3 (Air) and assistant S3 at HQs, 75th Ranger Regiment, deployed for Operation Just Cause, Panama and commanded Charlie Company, 3d Ranger Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Upon completion of the Command and General Staff College, Major General Stephen J. Townsend returned to Fort Benning where he served as Senior Liaison Officer at Ranger Regiment HQs and S3 of the 3d Ranger Battalion and deployed for Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was then assigned to United States Pacific Command, Hawaii as a J-5 Action Officer and later as Special Assistant to the Commander; and

WHEREAS, Reassigned to Fort Drum, New York, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was S3 of 2nd Brigade, 78th Division (Training Support), Fort Drum, New York before taking command of the Polar Bears of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 10th Mountain Division (Light); and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend led Task Force Polar Bear to Afghanistan for Operation Anaconda; and

WHEREAS, After the War College, Major General Stephen J. Townsend returned to Fort Drum where he served as the Division G3, 10th Mountain Division (Light) and then Director of Operations, C/J3, Combined Joint Task Force-180, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was next assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served as the Commander, 3d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division and led Task Force Arrowhead on offensive operations across Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Next, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was Executive officer to the Commander, United States Central Command, Tampa, Florida; he then served as the Senior Commander at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and later Deputy Commanding General (Operations), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and CJTF-101 in Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend's most recent assignment was as Director, Pakistan/Afghanistan Coordination cell, Joint Staff, Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend's education includes a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and two Master's degrees; and

WHEREAS, Major General Townsend's awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge (with star), Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist and Air Assault Badges and Ranger Tab; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Major General Stephen J. Townsend has demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore, the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Major General Stephen J. Townsend upon the occasion of his selection as 10th Mountain Division Commander; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Major General Stephen J. Townsend.