

## 2013-J619

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Tom Pillsworth upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Services to Armed Forces Legacy Award by the American Red Cross

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and support the purposeful cause of the American Red Cross, recognizing its long and sustained commitment to the principles of democracy and freedom so revered by this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Tom Pillsworth upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Services to Armed Forces Legacy Award by the American Red Cross on Thursday, March 7, 2013 in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born in January of 1940, Tom Pillsworth was raised in the city of Rensselaer, graduating from St. John's Academy; he later earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Siena College in 1961 and a master's degree in political science from The College of St. Rose in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Commissioned a Lieutenant in the United States Army Artillery, Mr. Pillsworth served on active duty in Europe from 1962 to 1964; following his service, he returned to live in the Town of Colonie; and

WHEREAS, Following a distinguished career working for the New York State Department of Civil Service and with experience having served as a consultant to the governments of Ukraine and Kenya along with his military background, Tom Pillsworth is a crucial volunteer for the American Red Cross Services to the Armed Forces and for the American Red Cross National Disaster Action Team; and

WHEREAS, On Monday, September 10, 2001, Pillsworth was at the Albany Chapter of the American Red Cross participating in training on advanced disaster relief; the next day he reported to New York City to help with the 9/11 relief effort, serving there for 10 days and making two more trips the following year; and

WHEREAS, In addition to Tom Pillsworth's disaster action team services, he is a member of the American Red Cross Services to Armed Forces (SAF) team; in 2005, he would be called on for another extraor-

dinary situation, deploying to Baghdad, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, As an American Red Cross Services to Armed Forces Volunteer (SAF), Tom Pillsworth spent many months training with the United States Marine Corps and the Army, as well as participated in training exercises in Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. to prepare for his tour; and

WHEREAS, American Red Cross deployment sites provide emergency communication services and boosts morale and quality of life for those serving; each year, the Red Cross delivers more than 600,000 emergency communication messages, from birth announcements to notification of illness or death in the family; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of Tom Pillsworth's six-month tour in Baghdad was essentially emergency communications; he was trained to find soldiers and notify them of family emergencies at home; and

WHEREAS, A morale booster, Tom Pillsworth utilized his skills to create an atmosphere where many could find a few moments away from the day to day stresses of combat; his strong compassion for the troops and his willingness to go the extra mile was evident to many; and

WHEREAS, Tom Pillsworth's inclusion in the Legacy project allows us to document, honor, and recognize the tremendous legacy of American Red Cross SAF volunteers and staff that have supported the United States military serving on combat, peacekeeping, peace-making and humanitarian missions; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Tom Pillsworth's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Tom Pillsworth upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Services to Armed Forces Legacy Award by the American Red Cross; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tom Pillsworth.