

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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April 18, 2024
Start: 10:46 a.m.
Recess: 10:51 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Robert F. Holden, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Kristy Marmorato
Sandy Nurse
Vickie Paladino

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Darlene Mealy

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Check 1, 2, check 1, 2.

3 This is a prerecorded sound test for the Committee on
4 Veterans. Today's date is April 18, 2024. It's being
5 recorded by Michael Leonardo in the City Council
6 Committee Room.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
9 the Committee on Veterans.

10 At this time, we ask that you silence
11 cell phones and electronic devices to minimize
12 disruption throughout the hearing.

13 Thank you for your cooperation.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: [GAVEL] Thank you,
16 Sergeant.

17 Good morning. I am Council Member Robert
18 Holden, Chair of the Committee on Veterans.

19 Today, the Committee will vote on
20 Resolution number 279, sponsored by Council Member
21 Vickie Paladino and myself, calling on the United
22 States Congress to pass and the President to sign
23 legislation declaring April 26th annually as Korean
24 War Veterans and Korean Defense Veterans Recognition
25 Day to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of those

2 who served. The Committee originally heard this
3 Resolution on April 2, 2024, and we're waiting on
4 Council Member Paladino who will talk about her
5 Resolution.

6 We are joined by my fellow Committee
7 Members, Council Member Joann Ariola, Council Member
8 Sandy Nurse, and Council Member Kristy Marmorato.

9 I guess we could vote, but let me just
10 add before we vote that the Korean War, which ended
11 with an armistice on July 27, 1953, and I was alive
12 then, is sometimes referred to as the Forgotten War
13 because it was overshadowed by World War 2 just
14 several years earlier and because Congress never
15 actually declared war on North Korea. Nonetheless, it
16 is an important part of our history for many reasons.
17 It marked the first battle of the Cold War. Over
18 36,000 Americans died on Korean soil, and another
19 103,000 were wounded, and today thousands of American
20 soldiers still defend a fragile piece on-site in
21 South Korea as they have done for decades so
22 Resolution 279 seeks to ensure that the honor with
23 which they served and their sacrifices will not be
24 forgotten.

2 I want to thank my Staff as well as
3 Committee staff who worked on this legislation,
4 Daniel Kurzyna is my Chief-of-Staff; Regina Paul, the
5 Committee Policy Analyst who drafted the Resolution;
6 and Ross Goldstein, the Committee's Financial
7 Analyst.

8 We'll now have the Clerk call the roll.
9 Are we ready?

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member,
11 Council Member Paladin is here so she's available to
12 make remarks.

13 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Great. Okay. Thank
14 you. Vickie Paladino.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Good morning and
16 thank you. It's an absolute honor to be able to
17 introduce today Resolution 279 calling upon the
18 United States Congress to pass and the President to
19 sign legislation declaring April 26th annually as
20 Korean War Veterans and Korean Defense Veterans
21 Recognition Day to celebrate the bravery of those who
22 have sacrificed. As Bob probably said prior to my
23 getting here, we had 5 million people go off to what
24 they call a conflict. It was never called a war. We
25 actually haven't been at war since World War 2 so to

2 lose 35,000 as opposed to the 55,000 that we lost in
3 the other conflict known as the Vietnam War, this is
4 indeed an honor, and I look forward to everybody
5 agreeing upon this and casting their vote in the most
6 positive of ways. Thank you very much, everybody.

7 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, Council
8 Member.

9 Now, I call on the Clerk to call the
10 roll.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Holden,
12 I don't know if you can see the table, but we've been
13 joined by Council Member Mealy as well.

14 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.
15 I can't see. It's very small on my phone. Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
17 Committee on Veterans. Matthew Distefano, Committee
18 Clerk. Roll call vote on Resolution 279. Chair
19 Holden.

20 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank
22 you. Nurse.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.
24 Congratulations.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

3 Ariola.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

5 Congratulations, Chair and my Colleague, Vickie

6 Paladino.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

8 Paladino.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

11 Marmorato.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye and

13 congratulations to all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: By a

15 vote of five in the affirmative, zero in the

16 negative, and no abstentions, the Resolution has been

17 adopted.

18 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, everyone.

19 This hearing is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date May 15, 2024