



Tompkins County Legislature

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was uniquely New York having begun in 1866 as Decoration Day approximately one hour north of Tompkins County in Waterloo, and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day is reserved to honor and pay respects to the military lives that have been lost; a day set aside for Veterans, military families, and civilians to decorate the grave sites of the late military servicemembers whose sacrifice they want to never be forgotten, and

WHEREAS, residents of this great State and County must never forget the courage with which these members of our armed forces served their country and must recognize that no debt is greater than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation, as well as to those who continue to be missing in action, and

WHEREAS, the service members who died for our freedom represent the diverse patchwork that is the United States of America, encompassing all stations of wealth, class, race, gender, geography, and ideology, and

WHEREAS, in this year that we celebrate the 22nd anniversary of Memorial Day becoming a national holiday, we also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Vietnam War; a war that claimed the lives of more than 58,000 military members – including more than 4,100 New Yorkers, of among whom were 12 sons of Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, military service comes with inherent dangers whether at a military base, in training, or in a combat zone, forcing loved ones of those lost to mourn that sacrifice while teaching everyone around them to celebrate those lives and their service, and

WHEREAS, local Veterans' organizations, their supporters, and Veterans' families will fan out this weekend of Memorial Day to cemeteries across Tompkins County to adorn with U.S. flags the final resting place of late servicemembers so that their commitment to the country is never forgotten, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The Tompkins County Legislature, does hereby proclaim May 29, 2023, as

Memorial Day

in Tompkins County, and accordingly, encourages all residents to pay honor and respect to our fallen and late military members who put their lives on the line in defense of freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Shawna Black, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this the 16th day of May 2023.



Shawna M. Black

Shawna Black, Chairwoman
Tompkins County Legislature