

RESOLUTION NO. 82

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2018 AS “AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH” IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 2/12/18

By Mss. McKnight, Willingham, Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Simpson, Fein and the Albany County Legislature:

WHEREAS, This month Albany County will join citizens from around the nation to commemorate African-American History Month and pay tribute to the determination and triumphs of African-Americans throughout our Country’s history and to the legacy of their experience, and

WHEREAS, Albany County has chosen “African-Americans in Times of War” as its theme for the 2018 observance of African-American History Month, and

WHEREAS, Despite policies of racial segregation and discrimination in a country that denied them their basic rights as citizens, African-Americans have fought for the United States throughout its history defending and serving their country , and

WHEREAS, It wasn’t until the middle of the 20th century that African-American soldiers began to receive the recognition and equality they deserved, and

WHEREAS, Albany’s own native son Henry Johnson deployed with the 369th Infantry Regiment which was ordered into battle in 1918, when Johnson arduously fought off German troops while saving the life of a fellow soldier (Needham Roberts) preventing him from being captured in the battle of the “Argonne Forest” during World War I, and

WHEREAS, Johnson was severely wounded himself in the battle and was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Gold Palm by France in 1918, however, his bravery and valor were not recognized by his own country until 1996 when he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, and

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2015, then President Obama awarded Johnson the nation’s top military honor during a packed ceremony in the East Room of the White House, when President Obama corrected a nearly century-old injustice by awarding Johnson the Medal of Honor that day, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By this Honorable Body that February 2018 is hereby designated as “African-Americans in Times of War” in Albany County and all citizens of Albany County are encouraged to reflect upon the African-American contributions to the history and culture of our Nation, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 2/12/18