A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR LORIGO

RE: Requesting that the County Executive Consider Funding a Monument Honoring Western New Yorkers Who Served in Iraq and Afghanistan

WHEREAS, servicemen and women from Western New York served in military actions in Iraq in 1991 and from 2003 through 2011 and in Afghanistan since 2001; and

WHEREAS, many of these Western New Yorkers gave their lives in service to our country; and

WHEREAS, the WNY Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial is currently seeking to erect a monument to honor these Western New Yorkers for their service and sacrifice, with particular reverence to those who died in service; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Sirianni has designed a monument with two brown granite memorials which will be inscribed with the names of those that we have lost; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park has agreed to host the monument; and

WHEREAS, the monument would be an appropriate way to honor Western New Yorkers serving overseas, as well as serve as a downtown waterfront attraction; and

WHEREAS, because the WNY Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial has not been a 501(c)(3) organization since 2009, it was proscribed from applying for cultural funding via the Cultural Advisory Board. However, the WNY Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial has an arrangement with Western New York Veterans Housing Coalition to allow it to accept donations earmarked for the monument as part of that group's not-for-profit mission; and

WHEREAS, a grant of $50,000 would allow the WNY Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial to begin construction of the monument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature requests that the County Executive consider funding the Iraq and Afghanistan Servicemen and Women's Monument in the amount of $50,000 as part of the 2013 cultural budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive and the Commissioner of Environment & Planning.

Fiscal Impact: $50,000 cost to taxpayers as part of the cultural budget.