

**GREENE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMENDATION IN HONOR OF**

THOMAS J. ANDREASSEN

RECIPIENT OF THE GREENE COUNTY "HONOR A VETERAN 2021" AWARD

WHEREAS, each year through the Veterans Service Agency, Greene County pays tribute to a Veteran who stands as a shining example of our American way of life; for the year 2021, Mr. Thomas James Andreassen of Leeds, New York, has been selected to receive this award in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding service to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Andreassen was born on March 20th, 1947 in Brooklyn, NY to Olaf and Agnes Andreassen, who moved their family to Saugerties in 1950, where Thomas attended St. Mary's School and was a 1965 graduate of Saugerties High; and

WHEREAS, that same year, Thomas joined the Navy Seabees and became an Equipment Operator Petty Officer 2nd Class; he completed two nine-month tours in Da Nang Province, Vietnam with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1-Navy Seabees; then he did a four-month tour in Antarctica and was honorably discharged on August 1st, 1969; and

WHEREAS, Thomas then worked as a lineman for Central Hudson Gas and Electric for 36 years; in 1977, Thomas met his current wife, Joy and they married in 1991, uniting their children from prior marriages and blending their families together; and

WHEREAS, Thomas received the Vietnam Service Medal with Fleet Marine Force Combat Operations Insignia and two Bronze Stars; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Antarctic Service Medal; and Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, his service to his country and its citizens did not stop when he came back home; Mr. Andreassen has been continually active in numerous Veterans organizations and events, including: life member of the Seabees Island 9 and the Vietnam Vets of America, both of Kingston, N.Y., life member of the Sullivan-Teator VFW Post 770 in Catskill; 13 year member of the Honeyford Memorial American Legion Post 110 in Catskill with 3 years as Commander and 10 years in Military Honor Guard; he and his wife Joy spearheaded the 100th Anniversary of the Honeyford Memorial American Legion Post in July, 2019; 8 year member of Northeast Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association in Greenville, NY; 10 years active member of Patriot Guard Riders and 6 years member and Road Captain for American Legion Riders of Greenville; 8 years Hosting a Ceremony to honor deceased Veterans on Armistice Day at the Catskill Veterans Cemetery, and 4 years on the Greene County Honor A Veteran Committee; 13 years organizing and participating in service of Memorial Day events and 3 years on Catskill Parade Committee. Thomas has performed many military funeral services, he spearheaded the building and placement of the WWII plaque at the Catskill Point, and he helped with the 2001 installation of the Ulster County Vietnam monument; he also assisted the "Paul Luke Band" for 20 years with the annual "Nam Jam" Ulster County fundraiser; and

WHEREAS, Thomas was the Emcee for the Ulster County Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall Opening Ceremony in Saugerties; and he served on the Greene County Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall Committee, he assisted with installation of the wall and he was the Keynote Speaker for that Opening Ceremony; he also escorted, installed and did security night shift in Eustis, Florida for their Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall; he escorted and helped set up Health Wall in Duanesburg; as Commander of Post, he spearheaded taking a WWII or Korean Veteran from Greene County to breakfast every 2nd Tuesday of the month until the pandemic; and he assisted Joan and Bob Abrahamsen with the raising of about 200 Veteran Markers at the Catskill Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, for the past 45 years, Thomas has lived in Greene County and he has been an active and dedicated county resident, friend and neighbor; in 1978 he coached for the newly created Minor League team called "The Parrots" of 8 to 9 year old's; he has been a Board Member of St. Patrick's Church in Catskill for 3 years and worked for many months rebuilding its auditorium/gym, as well as making repairs to St. Patrick's Church and Rectory; and

WHEREAS, Thomas J. Andreassen has shown himself to be a man of courage and integrity, whose exceptional dedication marks him as a true American in the best traditions of our democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the members of the Greene County Legislature, in acknowledgement and appreciation of his allegiance and devotion to this country and its citizens, do hereby proudly and publicly commend:

THOMAS J. ANDREASSEN, Recipient of The Greene County "Honor A Veteran 2021" Award

AND FURTHER, we honor Thomas J. Andreassen for his patriotism and the courage of his convictions, both essential to the health of our beloved nation, and we offer our sincerest gratitude to him for his exceptional military service and public service.

DATED: November 6th, 2021

THE GREENE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

By: 
Patrick S. Linger, Chairman

