

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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June 6, 2024
Start: 11:05 a.m.
Recess: 11:30 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:

Julie Menin

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Veterans, recorded by
4 Layla Lynch, in the Committee Room on June 6, 2024.

5 Good morning, and welcome to a Committee
6 vote on the Committee of Veterans.

7 At this time, Chair, we are ready to
8 begin.

9 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: [GAVEL] Good morning.
10 I am Council Member Robert Holden, Chair of the
11 Committee on Veterans.

12 Today, the Committee will vote on a
13 Resolution Number 157, sponsored by Council Member
14 Julie Menin, recognizing June 6th annually as D-Day
15 Remembrance Day in the City of New York in honor of
16 the courage and sacrifice of the Allied Soldiers on
17 the Normandy beaches in France, and it's 80 years
18 today, so it's very, very appropriate. This is the
19 most timely resolution we've ever had. The Committee
20 originally heard this Resolution on April 2, 2024.
21 Today is the 80th anniversary, as I said, of D-Day,
22 the largest amphibious assault in history, with 7,000
23 Allied ships supported by more than 11,500 Allied
24 aircraft. Together, with British and Canadian forces,
25 we landed at and secured Omaha, Utah, Sword, Juneau,

2 and Gold Beaches. In fact, 24,000 Allied
3 paratroopers, and my father-in-law was one of them,
4 had already been dropped behind enemy lines to cut
5 off any possible escape of the German soldiers from
6 the Normandy shore. The Normandy Campaign was the
7 beginning of the end for German occupation of France
8 and, indeed, for German domination of Europe. Today,
9 we especially remember our 2,400 U.S. casualties on
10 Omaha Beach, which was the deadliest landing zone
11 that day.

12 Now I would like to ask Council Member
13 Menin to provide remarks on her Resolution.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you so much,
15 Chair Holden, and I honestly can't think of a more
16 fitting way for this Body to commemorate and honor D-
17 Day than what we're doing here today. It has personal
18 significance, I will say, for my family as a daughter
19 and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, and my
20 grandfather. Many of my other relatives were
21 unfortunately killed in the Holocaust.

22 As the Chair eloquently said, 80 years
23 ago today was D-Day, a fateful military operation
24 that ultimately led to the liberation of Europe from
25 Nazi Germany and marked the end of World War II. As

2 we mark the 80th anniversary of this fateful event,
3 it's just incredibly fitting and appropriate for us
4 to be doing a Resolution to commemorate and honor
5 that day, and I was actually surprised that it hadn't
6 been done earlier so I'm so pleased that we're doing
7 this today. As former President Barack Obama said in
8 2014, victory on D-Day dealt a significant blow to an
9 ideology that was fueled by hatred. I can think of no
10 better way to honor the legacy, the courage, the
11 fortitude, and ultimately the sacrifice of our armed
12 forces than having June 6th annually recognized as D-
13 Day Remembrance Day in the City of New York. I want
14 to thank the Chair for joining me on this Resolution,
15 and I want to thank the drafter, Regina Paul, for all
16 of her hard work and for my team, Jonathan Szott, my
17 Chief-of-Staff, and Brandon Jordan, my Legislative
18 Director. Thank you so much.

19 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, Council
20 Member Menin.

21 I'd like to recognize the Committee
22 Council Members here, Council Member Sandy Nurse,
23 Council Member Joann Ariola, and Council Member
24 Vickie Paladino.

2 I would also like to thank my Staff as
3 well as the Committee Staff who worked on preparing
4 this legislation, including Daniel Kurzyna, my Chief-
5 of-Staff, Regina Paul, to my right, the Committee's
6 Policy Analyst, who drafted the resolution, and Ross
7 Goldstein, the Committee's Financial Analyst.

8 I will now call on the Clerk to call the
9 roll.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
11 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
12 vote, Committee on Veterans on Resolution 157, Chair
13 Holden.

14 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I proudly vote
19 aye. Congratulations, Julie and Chair.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I too vote
22 proudly aye, and I want to thank Julie for bringing
23 this to the forefront and, on this anniversary, I
24 just want to, if I may, just say this. May we never
25 forget this day in our American history. As these

2 brave men stormed the beaches, the thoughts that must
3 have been running through their minds and the prayers
4 that they were reciting, knowing full well that this
5 was, by far, could be their last and a suicide
6 mission for so many. Prayers today for all those who
7 were there, those who never came home, those who
8 survived. God bless you all, and God bless America.
9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you for that,
11 Council Member, and I'd like to close this hearing.
12 Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: One
14 moment, one moment.

15 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Oh, we're going to
16 keep, I'm sorry.

17 We have one more Council Member that's
18 coming so we're going to keep the vote open for 15
19 minutes. Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: This is
21 William Martin, Committee Clerk. Just for the record,
22 the vote is four in the affirmative, zero in the
23 negative, and no abstentions. The Resolution is
24 adopted by the Committee, and the vote is held open
25 at request of the Chair.

2 Good morning. Continuation roll call,
3 Committee on Veterans, Resolution 157. Council Member
4 Marmorato.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
7 vote is now five in the affirmative, zero in the
8 negative, and no abstentions.

9 Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

10 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: [GAVEL] Closed. Thank
11 you.

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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 July 4, 2024