

2009-J305

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Captain A. Daniel Shea upon the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of distinguished service to the Town of Hamburg Police Department on January 23, 2009

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished officers and citizens who would devote themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Captain A. (Arthur) Daniel Shea upon the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of distinguished service to the Town of Hamburg Police Department on Friday, January 23, 2009; and

WHEREAS, A South Buffalo native, A. Daniel Shea is a graduate of South Park High School; he was drafted by the United States Army when he was 19-years-old and proudly served in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, After serving his tour of duty, Captain Shea returned to the area, married his wife of 37 years, Linda Whitted, went to work at General Motors, and began to take the initial steps in becoming a police officer; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating great commitment and dedication to police work, A. Daniel Shea was hired by the Town of Hamburg Police Department; he attended the Police Academy, which lasted only five weeks and then returned to Hamburg for on the job training in March 1975; and

WHEREAS, For eight years, A. Daniel Shea worked as a patrol officer, often teaming up with the late Joe LaRosa, who served as his partner for seven years; as he gained experience, he moved up in the ranks; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, A. Daniel Shea became a detective, in 1990, he made lieutenant, in 1999, he became captain and in 2001, he was promoted to captain in charge of the detective bureau; and

WHEREAS, Captain Shea has been an integral part of the investigative team for the Town of Hamburg Police Department; he helped to establish the Department's forensic lab and is the go-to expert on fingerprinting, a talent numerous law enforcement agencies have come to rely on; he is also one of only six people in Western New York that is a certified latent fingerprint expert; and

WHEREAS, The FBI was so impressed with Captain Shea's fingerprinting ability, they suggested he attend their fingerprinting school in Virginia, thus beginning Shea's many years of additional training that would keep him on the top of his field; today, he shares his expertise with students at Hilbert College as a Professor of fingerprinting techniques and tools; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Captain Shea has been a top-notch detective and forensics expert; he has built a reputation as one of the best interrogators in Western New York; however, he is most known for his compassion and for continuously going above and beyond by working closely with local families to try to help kids who are in trouble; he keeps in touch, follows up with them and encourages them to stay on the straight and narrow; and

WHEREAS, His magnanimous efforts have helped to transform the lives of many individuals; he has truly improved the quality of life for the residents of Hamburg and has made the town a safer place to live; and

WHEREAS, Captain Shea, a man of singular distinction, whose wisdom, guidance and most of all unparalleled professionalism, earned him the admiration, esteem and affection of all those he has come in contact with throughout his 34 years of serving the Town of Hamburg Police Department; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Linda, and their son, Daniel, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those dedicated public servants who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy and due full praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Captain A. Daniel Shea after 34 years of distinguished service to the Town of Hamburg Police Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Captain A. Daniel Shea.