

## 2009-K593

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Paul A. Richter upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition as the recipient of the Burke Award by the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and Burke Medical Research Institute

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, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Paul A. Richter upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition as the recipient of the Burke Award by the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and Burke Medical Research Institute; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, in White Plains, New York; and

WHEREAS, A 1962 graduate of the New York State Police Basic School, Paul A. Richter was a Zone Sergeant assigned to Troop B and on patrol near Saranac Lake when he was the victim of a criminal shooting on September 30, 1973, that left him paralyzed; and

WHEREAS, After spending a year in intensive and painful rehabilitation at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center in Schenectady, New York, Paul A. Richter courageously persevered and recovered his ability to walk when aided by a cane; and

WHEREAS, Responding to the enormous support and encouragement that he and his family received from the New York State Police during his ordeal, Paul A. Richter headed a successful effort to create the Gray Rider State Trooper Monument in tribute to all the generations of men and women of the State Police; the monument was unveiled on September 30, 1993, the 20th anniversary of his injury; and

WHEREAS, An inspiration to all victims, families and advocates who have been affected by violent crime, Paul A. Richter has lent support and counseling to hundreds of victims and their families over the years; he has devoted himself to raising money to support medical research to find a cure for spinal cord injury (SCI); and

WHEREAS, As Chairman of the Capital District Chapter of the Spinal Cord Society, Paul A. Richter has organized annual fundraising events; he was instrumental in the creation of the Spinal Cord Injury Research Board that has invested millions in neurological research toward a cure for SCI, and serves on its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Paul A. Richter has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, family and friends; rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which he has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Supporting Paul A. Richter throughout has been the love, devotion and courage of his wife, Marie Claire, and his entire family; 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 congratulate Paul A. Richter upon the occasion of his designation for

special recognition as the recipient of the Burke Award by the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and Burke Medical Research Institute; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Paul A. Richter, 24 Davis Avenue, Albany, New York.