

## 2009-J2094

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Trooper Joseph E. Decker upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the Brummer Award at the 33rd Annual State Police Awards Day Ceremony on May 11, 2009

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values, worthy of safeguarding; this Legislative Body is moved to honor those who preserve and protect such values, lauding particularly their unwavering courage and dedication in the daily performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Trooper Joseph E. Decker, of Troop F in Middletown, upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the Brummer Award, the highest award for bravery a member of the New York State Police can receive; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Joseph E. Decker received this high honor in recognition of his courage and valor in the performance of duty at the 33rd Annual State Police Awards Day Ceremony, held at the New York State Police Academy in Albany on Monday, May 11, 2009; and

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, July 23, 2008, Trooper Decker was working a 1 shift in Northern Sullivan County, which was receiving heavy rain; he was monitoring Little Spring Brook, which flows from the Town of Colchester in Delaware County in Troop C into the Town of Rockland in Sullivan County, Troop F; this area had previously been devastated on June 19, 2007, by a flash flood that claimed four lives and closed State Route 206 (County Route 7) for five months; and

WHEREAS, At about 2:00 p.m., Trooper Decker and Trooper Stephen K. Johnstone, SP Roscoe, entered into Troop C as flood waters started to cross the roadway, threatening motorists and residences; Trooper Decker contacted SP Liberty to make notifications to close the mountain highway

on both ends and started evacuations; a local volunteer fireman advised Trooper Decker that he had started to evacuate a family at the base of the mountain and had been able to secure a two-year-old baby, but the mother and another child were still trapped inside the house; and WHEREAS, Trooper Decker responded to the house and saw a woman and child screaming for help from the front door; both Trooper Decker and Trooper Johnstone, assisted by two firemen, secured a 150-foot rope to a guide rail and advised the trapped woman to secure the other end of the rope to her front porch; Trooper Decker then secured himself to the rope using a rescue belt; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation, Trooper Decker entered the floodwaters and swam 30 yards to the house, which was totally surrounded by fast moving water; he carried a 12-year-old child from the house to the highway, reentered the water, swam back to the house, and was able to carry the 30-year-old mother to safety; shortly after rescuing her, the front porch was ripped away from the house and swept downstream; and

WHEREAS, With the family reunited and safe, Trooper Decker and Trooper Johnstone resumed their evacuation actions, going house to house with local firemen to advise residents of the danger; the flooding in the area damaged houses and the roadway, again forcing the closure of the road; thankfully, though, no injuries or deaths were sustained by anyone; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Decker is to be commended for his actions; despite grave personal danger, he risked his life to save two others; his courage, perseverance, and dedication to duty exemplify and are a credit to the New York State Police; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with the finest traditions of the New York State Police, Trooper Joseph E. Decker has distinguished himself by his exem-

plary achievement and outstanding performance on behalf of the community he so faithfully and courageously serves; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated efforts of public servants, such as Trooper

Joseph E. Decker, who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy of the full praise of this Legislative Body and the people of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Trooper Joseph E. Decker upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the Brummer Award at the 33rd Annual State Police Awards Day Ceremony on May 11, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Trooper Joseph E. Decker.