

2011-J4947

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Correction Officer William Tolli upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of a New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Medal of Merit on June 14, 2012

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values, worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is moved to honor individuals 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 Correction Officer William Tolli upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of a New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Medal of Merit on June 14, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision confers this most prestigious honor recognizing extraordinary service upon employees who have displayed singular courage and outstanding service during a ceremony at the Training Academy in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, On August 29, 2011, Correction Officer William Tolli was on his way to work at the Woodbourne Correctional Facility when he observed a serious one car rollover accident; Correction Officer Tolli called 911 and without hesitation went to help the driver who was found suspended by his seatbelt and unconscious in the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, The vehicle was upside down, still running and had smoke coming out of it; Correction Officer Tolli broke out the back window of the vehicle, crawled inside, shut off the engine and unlocked the doors; and

WHEREAS, With the assistance of Correction Officer Mike Cassidy of the Sullivan Correctional Facility, who had also come upon the accident, they were able to release the seatbelt and lower the unconscious driver down thus taking the weight off of his head and neck which were resting against the roof; and

WHEREAS, They moved him to an area a safe distance away from his vehicle; Correction Officers Tolli and Cassidy remained with the driver until the ambulance and EMTs arrived; and

WHEREAS, The driver, later identified as Nicholas Chalk, Supervising Correction Counselor, at Woodbourne Correctional Facility was transported to the hospital then airlifted to a trauma center; and

WHEREAS, Correction Officers Tolli and Cassidy, without regard for their own safety, came to the immediate assistance of a stranger who they later found out to be a fellow Department employee; their actions exemplify the caliber of the employees of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, as well as their exceptional contribution to public service; and

WHEREAS, Officer William Tolli distinguished himself with this act of bravery that went above and beyond the call of duty; he is a shining example of what a Correctional Services Officer represents, but more importantly, he is an example of the best of what humanity has to offer; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those dedicated public servants, such as William Tolli, who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy of 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 Correction Officer William Tolli upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of a New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Medal of Merit on June 14, 2012; and be it

further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Correction Officer William Tolli.