

2015-J40

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Officer James B. Chechak in recognition of his heroic action in rescuing a child from the Seneca-Cayuga Canal on July 22, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring, concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, remaining calm under pressure, in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of human life are cherished values, worthy of safeguarding; this Legislative Body is proud to honor an individual who would serve to protect it, lauding particularly one who would clearly endanger his own life and safety on behalf of that cause; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Officer James B. Chechak in recognition of his heroic action in rescuing a child from the Seneca-Cayuga Canal on July 22, 2014; Waterloo Police Chief Doyle Marquart presented this extraordinary Officer with an Award at a Village Board Meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014, Village Hall, Waterloo, New York; and

WHEREAS, On the afternoon of July 22, 2014, Officer James B. Chechak and a second member of the Waterloo Police Department were called to a home on East Main Street after a member of the community reported seeing two unattended children playing in her backyard; and

WHEREAS, Officer James B. Chechak located the children's father with one of the children, age four; the second child, just three years old, was reported missing at that time; and

WHEREAS, The missing child was discovered in the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, floating on his back approximately halfway across the waterway; without hesitation Officer James B. Chechak requested the backup of an ambulance and the local fire department while his fellow officer removed the boy

from the water; and

WHEREAS, Once out of the water, resuscitation efforts were administered, and the boy, who was having difficulty breathing, was revived; the child was transferred to Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester for overnight observation and was released the next day; and

WHEREAS, Officer James B. Chechak should be meritoriously commended for remaining calm under pressure and for showing valor and true courage while performing a lifesaving deed; and

WHEREAS, Through his spontaneous and heroic actions, Officer James B. Chechak demonstrated his character and his compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his actions, the collective concern of citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without the thought of danger or reward when others are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Officer James B. Chechak in recognition of his heroic action in rescuing a child from the Seneca-Cayuga Canal on July 22, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Officer James B. Chechak.