

## 2015-J351

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending David Wilhelm in recognition of his heroic action in rescuing eight passengers trapped in a van following a motor vehicle accident on November 13, 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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend David Wilhelm in recognition of his heroic action in rescuing eight passengers trapped in a van following a motor vehicle accident on Thursday, November 13, 2014; and

WHEREAS, David Wilhelm, who holds the rank of staff sergeant in the United States National Guard, was traveling on Route 209 in Napanoch, New York, the morning of Thursday, November 13, 2014, when he witnessed a horrible accident involving a van carrying seven men and women with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The van, owned by Cerebral Palsy of Ulster County, was in route from Ellenville, New York to a day facility in Lake Katrine, when a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction swerved into the path of the van, causing it to roll over; and

WHEREAS, Upon exiting his vehicle, David Wilhelm did a quick scan of the accident scene and reassured the driver of the car that help was on its way; without hesitation or concern for his own safety, he entered the van through the back emergency door and began freeing the bus driver, who was then able to assist him in bringing the other passengers to safety; and

WHEREAS, Using his survival knife, David Wilhelm cautiously cut the seat belts and wheelchair restraints so the passengers could be lowered

and carefully removed from the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, after noticing one of the passengers was severely injured, David Wilhelm quickly wrapped his sweater around the victim's head to stop the bleeding before being removed from the wreck; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, 38 year old David Wilhelm spent nine months serving as a platoon leader in the 108th Infantry Division in Afghanistan; in addition to his IED training, he has been trained to deal with rollovers and is well versed in first-aid procedures; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary man 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, David Wilhelm 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 commend David Wilhelm in recognition of his heroic action in rescuing eight passengers trapped in a van following a motor vehicle accident on November 13, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to David Wilhelm.