

## 2015-J581

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rochelle Pratt upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among all of us; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rochelle Pratt upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by a resolution in 2014 and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Nurse for the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department, Rochelle Pratt has been instrumental in educating the Amish population of the St. Lawrence County communities of Lisbon, Oswegatchie and DePeyster on the risk of rabies; and

WHEREAS, When an Amish horse in St. Lawrence County was diagnosed with rabies, potentially placing other families and livestock at risk, Rochelle Pratt, along with the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department, provided critical assistance to contain the spread of the disease, educating representatives of more than 60 Amish families; and

WHEREAS, The steadfast dedication of Rochelle Pratt and the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department resulted in a successful partnership between state, county, private businesses and individuals, and the post rabies treatment of several Amish individuals, as well as the vaccination of nearly 100 Amish owned horses, livestock and pets during subfreezing weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, This innovative and non-traditional method of reaching out to the underserved Amish population, educating its community on the importance of vaccinating livestock, has been crucial to the protection against rabies and other dangerous diseases; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Rochelle Pratt, devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth, are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rochelle Pratt upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rochelle Pratt.