

2015-J1829

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the seven brave firefighters and police officers involved in the successful rescue of two individuals trapped inside their burning home, and honoring them with Liberty Medals

WHEREAS, The firefighters and police officers of New York State are renowned throughout the Nation; their reputation is synonymous with excellence in the arduous fields of fire protection and prevention and public safety; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the seven brave firefighters and police officers involved in the successful rescue of two individuals trapped inside their burning home, and to honor them with Liberty Medals, 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, On April 8, 2015, a fire started in a one-story ranch in Brighton, New York; the flames engulfed the attached garage and home, and the light from these flames woke a neighbor who called 911 reporting a house fire with people trapped inside; at the same time, a 911 call was received from inside the home from a female occupant stating she and her elderly mother were trapped inside; and

WHEREAS, Three minutes after the dispatch, Brighton Engine 302 and officers from the Brighton Police Department including Sergeant Allison Laubacher, Michael Romach, Brad Steve, and Richard Kosakowski, and a Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy, William Connell, arrived on the scene, taking immediate action and breaking a window to get to the victims; and

WHEREAS, The firefighters began to attack the flames consuming the

garage and front of the structure; at this time, Firefighter Chad Orioli arrived on the scene; he attempted to stand on the back of a Brighton Police Officer but was unable to fit through the window while wearing his fire gear and SCBA; without hesitation and regard for his own safety, he removed his SCBA, and the police officers lifted him off the ground and pushed him through the window head first into the bedroom where he located the two females; and

WHEREAS, Due to his quick and astute actions, Firefighter Chad Orioli found the first victim, a 97-year-old woman, and passed her through the window to waiting Firefighter Denis Jeffries, and members of the Brighton Police and Monroe County Sheriff's Office; he then found the second victim, the woman's 64-year-old daughter, and passed her safely through the window to waiting firefighters and police officers; and

WHEREAS, Although the situation could have been a dire one, Firefighter Chad Orioli did not hesitate to remove his safety gear and be pushed headfirst into the bedroom, not knowing what conditions he would face inside; without his SCBA or other tools, he put his own life at risk to rescue and remove two individuals who needed his help; and

WHEREAS, Through their courageous and heroic actions, the seven firefighters and police officers demonstrated the traditions of honor, dedication, knowledge and compassion, exemplifying Brighton's motto of conscientious, caring service; they showed the fire service tradition of selflessness by risking their lives to save the lives of others; their ability to react, presence of mind, and ability to maintain their composure under deteriorating conditions which risked both their lives and those of the two females makes them an example of dedicated heroes; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters and police officers not only provide the critical service of fire protection and public safety but also

engage in other activities of great benefit and importance to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others

and a tireless sense of community to forsake precious time with family and friends to respond to the signal that a neighbor is in need; throughout their devoted service, these brave firefighters and police officers heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the seven brave firefighters and police officers involved in the successful rescue of two individuals trapped inside their burning home, and to honor them with Liberty Medals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned Firefighters and Police Officers.