

## 2015-J2279

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring P.J. Male upon the occasion of his 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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of those exemplary citizens, who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor P.J. Male upon the occasion of his 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, On April 1, 2015, P.J. Male, an employee of the Peekskill Parks and Recreation Department, looked out onto Depew Lake and saw a nine-year-old girl calling for help and hanging onto a small piece of ice while her dog was running around nearby; acting on instinct, he immediately ran out to help her; and

WHEREAS, Unconcerned with his own health, P.J. Male trudged through 33-degree water, and swam 25 to 30 yards to rescue the young girl and her dog; he quickly put the girl and her dog on his back and swam them back to safety; and

WHEREAS, Even though this situation could have been a dire one, today,

the young girl and her dog are alive and well, and credits P.J. Male for his quick and astute heroic actions in saving them; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Putnam Valley, New York, P.J. Male is a 12-year veteran employee for the City of Peekskill; he is a former Junior Varsity Football Coach at Walter Panas High School, and currently umpires men's softball games; and

WHEREAS, P.J. Male, through his spontaneous and heroic actions, demonstrated his character and his compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of the State of New York who voluntarily respond when others are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor P.J. Male upon the occasion of his 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 P.J. Male.