

2015-J2280

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Firefighter Timothy Gunther posthumously 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, 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 us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Firefighter Timothy Gunther posthumously 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, A lifelong Hudson Valley resident, Timothy Gunther was born on June 22, 1960, to Thomas Anthony and Lydia Spertal Gunther of Hopewell Junction; he graduated from John Jay High School in 1978, SUNY Albany in 1982, and SUNY New Paltz in 1992; and

WHEREAS, On August 4, 1990 at St. Columbus Church in Hopewell Junction, Timothy Gunther married Christine Buechele, and together they raised two beautiful children; and

WHEREAS, A 21-year member of the City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department,

Timothy Gunther responded to his last alarm on Monday, May 4, 2015; after courageously battling a fatal blaze at a home on Church Street, he succumbed to injuries and made the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his steadfast dedication to the City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department, Timothy Gunther served as an English teacher prior to his illustrious career as a firefighter, and was a member of Hudson Valley Playwrights; a play he wrote, "The International Association of Competitive Poets," debuted Sunday, May 10, 2015, at the group's first Short Play Festival at the Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck; and

WHEREAS, A truly heroic and courageous man, Timothy Gunther was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades; he was part of a team of firefighters given a unit citation in 2011 for a Hudson River rescue, and was a 2008 General Salute to Heroes Award Winner for making a difference in keeping patients alive before and after Advanced Life Support; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Gunther is survived by his parents, Thomas and Lydia; his wife, Christine; his children, Casey and Tess; his beloved dogs, Duke, Gus and Jaxx; his sisters, Jude and Alida, and their husbands; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Timothy Gunther 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 Firefighter Timothy Gunther posthumously 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 the family of Firefighter Timothy Gunther.