

2015-J2756

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recommending that the service and sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis, of Staten Island, New York, be memorialized through the designation of a Staten Island Ferry vessel in his name

WHEREAS, The Staten Island Ferry has been in operation since 1905, transporting over 22 million passengers annually between the boroughs of Manhattan and Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, The New York City Department of Transportation will replace two existing vessels of the Staten Island Ferry fleet with new ships that will be better equipped for rougher conditions; and

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel since the United States Armed Forces commenced Operation Enduring Freedom will ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and as a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis, age 24, died on August 28, 2013, in eastern Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Army Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis posthumously received the Silver Star, the military's third highest decoration, for his valor and bravery while saving the life of a Polish officer; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the Silver Star, Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis posthumously received the Gold Medal of the Polish Armed Forces from the Polish government, and the Oakwood Heights Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was renamed in his honor; and

WHEREAS, A great American and a hero in the truest sense of the word, Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis displayed the ultimate act of

heroism; his leadership, selflessness and bravery will forever serve as a reminder that freedom is not free; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body recommend to the New York City Department of Transportation that the next vessel added to the Staten Island Ferry fleet be named in honor of Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis, paying tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis.