

2015-J3061

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Christopher Burke 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 Christopher Burke 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 resolution 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, 20-year-old Christopher Burke has a special relationship with water; an avid swimmer and surfer, he has been both a trained and certified lifeguard for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Currently, this remarkable young man is one of several lifeguards employed at the Eisenhower Park Aquatic Center in East Meadow, New York; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2015, while on vacation at the beach in Westhampton, New York, Christopher Burke heard an exhausted woman yelling for help while she was swimming in the ocean; using his skills and training, he rushed into the water and safely pulled her onto the shore; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Burke, 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 Christopher Burke 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 Christopher Burke.