

## 2015-K1049

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the members of the Corrections Emergency Response Teams (CERT) of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for their tenacious efforts during the 23-day search following the escape of two dangerous inmates from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the long-standing efforts of those agencies in the State of New York which diligently contribute to the efficient operation of our criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the members of the Corrections Emergency Response Teams (CERT) of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for their tenacious efforts during the 23-day search following the escape of two dangerous inmates from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York; and

WHEREAS, Twenty CERT from across the State of New York undertook the exhausting and difficult task of tracking down two prisoners, Richard Matt and David Sweat, who escaped on June 6, 2015; and

WHEREAS, During this time, CERT worked 16-24 hour shifts under hot, humid, often rainy conditions searching the woods, swamps and fields of some of the North Country's most difficult terrain; a majority of the time, they traversed dense forests where visibility was compromised; in addition, the lack of radio communications further hindered the perilous situation, therefore CERT and other law enforcement agencies were unable to successfully communicate; and

WHEREAS, CERT were seen returning late at night from their deployments with duct tape on their boots, suffering from dry rot on their feet,

victims of various sprains and muscle injuries to sleep on cots in a closed prison or gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, These courageous CERT forsook precious time with family and friends to respond to this life-threatening situation which put the lives of all the residents of, not only the North Country and the State of New York, but neighboring States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, During this three-week long tedious search, loyal residents throughout the North Country communities donated home-cooked meals, boot dryers and warmers, socks, toiletry supplies, whatever needed and remained steadfast in their solidarity to assist these courageous CERT until their job was successfully completed and the North Country was safe; and

WHEREAS, The quality of life in New York State is largely reflective of the commitment and dedication demonstrated by members of the agencies which serve to protect, preserve and maintain public order; and

WHEREAS, The tradition of noble public service, heroism and leadership embodied by CERT is of such magnitude as to be worthy of special, state-wide recognition; these meritorious officers stand as an integral part of the criminal justice system; its dedicated staff will continue to provide critical and vital service to the residents of our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the members of CERT of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for their tenacious efforts following the escape of two dangerous inmates from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel Dennis W. Bradford, Director of CERT Operations, NYS

DOCCS and all the members of CERT and their Team Leaders at Clinton Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Darryl Menard, Upstate Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Steven Salls, Albany CERT (NYS DOCCS Albany

Training Academy) Captain James Noeth, Field Commander, Lieutenant Carl Pierce, Team Leader, Attica Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Thomas Monin, Auburn Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Mark Valentino, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility CERT Sergeant Dean Rabideau, Coxsackie Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Jerald Meigs, Collins Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Gary Schoenthaler, Eastern NY Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Michael Harms, Elmira Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant John Randall, Fishkill Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Jamie Glasspoole and CERT Lieutenant Joseph Wassweiler, Gouverneur Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Robert Theriault, Great Meadow Correctional Facility CERT Sergeant Michael Hoy, Green Haven Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Orazio Bucolo, Mid-State Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant David Strzepek, Mohawk Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Stephen Otto, Ogdensburg Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Kenneth Buckley, Sing Sing Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Anthony Pontante, Wallkill Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant Gerald Gardner, and Woodbourne Correctional Facility CERT Lieutenant William Mead.