

2015-K1092

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending New York State Police Troop B Sergeant Jay D. Cook for his tenacious efforts during the 23-day search following the escape of two dangerous inmates from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values, worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is moved to honor those individuals who serve to preserve and protect such values, lauding particularly their unwavering courage and dedication in the daily performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to recognize and commend such outstanding law enforcement officers as Sergeant Jay D. Cook for his valued contributions to his community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend New York State Police Troop B Sergeant Jay D. Cook for his 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, After serving with the Department of Corrections in April of 1994, Jay D. Cook joined the New York State Police, and upon graduating from the Police Academy, he was assigned to Troop B; and

WHEREAS, As a Trooper, Sergeant Jay D. Cook served as a Senior Firearms Instructor, and was promoted to the rank of Technical Sergeant on February 5, 2001, before being assigned to the Combined Ballistics Identification System (COBIS) in Ray Brook; and

WHEREAS, On August 14, 2001, Sergeant Jay D. Cook attained the permanent rank of Sergeant, and on April 30, 2009, was transferred to supervise the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team; and

WHEREAS, After the escape of two inmates, Richard Matt and David Sweat, from Clinton Correctional Facility on June 6, 2015, Sergeant Jay Cook assumed a lead role as a Patrol Supervisor coordinating the response of Troopers assigned to his strike team after numerous sightings and reports of suspicious activity were reported; and

WHEREAS, Led by Sergeant Jay D. Cook, countless buildings were searched, and, when the search area expanded to the Chateaugay area, Sergeant Cook's knowledge of the North Country region was instrumental during the coordination of search activities as well as communicating with the local residents; and

WHEREAS, On June 26th, 21 days into this grueling search, in a wooded area about 40 yards off Route 30 in the Town of Malone, Franklin County, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection tactical team member fatally shot Richard Matt; and

WHEREAS, Two days later, on June 28th, the search came to an end when Sergeant Jay D. Cook was by himself patrolling the area in the Town of Constable, Franklin County, and recognized a man walking on the road as David Sweat; realizing he was seen, the suspect fled across an alfalfa field and Sergeant Cook pursued him for over 100 yards before discharging his firearm and subsequently taking him into custody; and

WHEREAS, Had Sergeant Jay D. Cook not located the suspect, he would have, without a doubt, fled into Canada, greatly complicating the search effort; and

WHEREAS, Through his unwavering commitment to serve and protect the communities and citizens of the State of New York, Sergeant Jay D. Cook responded without hesitation or due concern for his own welfare and safety; and

WHEREAS, For his astute and perceptive actions during the manhunt, both prior to the apprehension of the second inmate and his heroism directly resulting in his capture, Sergeant Jay D. Cook was awarded both the Troop B Commander's Exceptional Performance Award and the National

Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Officer of the Month Award; and WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Franklin County, Sergeant Jay D. Cook lives with his wife, Carrie, and their two daughters; hailed as a hometown hero, he has certainly earned the honor and admiration of the residents throughout the North Country, in addition to the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend New York State Police Troop B Sergeant Jay D. Cook for his tenacious efforts during the 23-day search following the escape of two dangerous inmates from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to New York State Police Troop B Sergeant Jay D. Cook.