

2015-K1093

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Major Charles E. Guess, New York State Police Troop B Commander, for his outstanding leadership skills and professionalism 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 Major Charles E. Guess 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 Major Charles E. Guess, New York State Police Troop B Commander, for his outstanding leadership skills and professionalism during the 23-day search following the escape of two dangerous inmates from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York; and

WHEREAS, The competent and expert leadership skills of Major Charles E. Guess, visible throughout the 23 days of intense investigation and manhunt for two escaped inmates, Richard Matt and David Sweat, was exceptional and a true testament to his competence as a State Police Commander; and

WHEREAS, From June 6-28, 2015, Major Charles E. Guess directed 1,560 law enforcement personnel from 16 agencies across the State of New York who were involved in the arduous search; and

WHEREAS, As many as 532 State Troopers and 200 State Investigators

from New York deployed with the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Corrections Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Correction Officers, Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Rangers and Police, U.S. Border Patrol, FBI, U.S. Marshals, Vermont State Police, Sheriffs' Offices from Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Washington and Broome Counties and Police Departments from City of Plattsburgh, Village of Malone and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe; and

WHEREAS, Under the speculation of the public and media that the two escaped convicts were someplace far away, morale among the more than 1,000 searchers from these various agencies was being tested; and

WHEREAS, Major Charles E. Guess remained focused in his belief that without evidence to the contrary, the assumption must remain that the two escapees were still in the region; and

WHEREAS, During this time, under his stellar leadership, these courageous men and women 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 the law enforcement agencies were unable to successfully communicate with each other; and

WHEREAS, These Troopers, Investigators, and other law enforcement personnel returned late at night from their deployments, visibly exhausted and hungry after being pushed to the limits both physically as well as mentally; and

WHEREAS, Major Charles E. Guess and each and every law enforcement personnel 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, in danger; 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 28, the search came to an end when New York State Police Sergeant Jay 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, Although many lives were disrupted during this tedious search, no law enforcement personnel or private citizens were injured or killed due in large part to the strong leadership skills, training and experience of Major Charles Guess; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those dedicated public servants who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy and due full praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Major Charles E. Guess, New York State Police Troop B Commander, for his outstanding leadership skills and professionalism 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 Major Charles E. Guess, New York State Police Troop B Commander.