

2015-J4654

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jenna Fanelli upon the occasion of her 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 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 took prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, helped others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jenna Fanelli upon the occasion of her 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, Twenty-three year-old Jenna Fanelli was attending a barbecue at the JFK Marina in Yonkers, New York, on September 7, 2014, when she heard that a five-year-old boy was struggling in the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, Without thoughts of her own safety, certified lifeguard Jenna Fanelli climbed over a fence along the bank, descended to the level of the water, and bravely entered the swift-moving river; she quickly swam to the boy who was being held by a fellow rescuer; and

WHEREAS, Seeing that the pair were struggling, Jenna Fanelli shouted for the other rescuer to pass her the boy; she wrapped an arm around the young boy's chest and used her free arm to swim toward the bank; and

WHEREAS, Although the current carried them farther up the river, Jenna Fanelli was able to reach the shore where she and the boy were helped out of the water; unfortunately, the other rescuer succumbed to the raging river; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Pleasantville High School, Jenna Fanelli earned her degree from Keene State College; today, she serves as a recreational therapist at Andrus Children's Center in Yonkers; and

WHEREAS, For her courageous efforts, Jenna Fanelli was the recipient of the Carnegie Medal Award, which recognizes those exceptional individuals who risk their lives saving or attempting to save others; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Fanelli through her spontaneous and heroic actions, demonstrated her character and her compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of her actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of the State of New York who voluntarily responded when others were in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jenna Fanelli upon the occasion of her 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 Jenna Fanelli.