

2015-J4814

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Police Officer Juan Guzman 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 the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished officers and citizens who would devote themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Police Officer Juan Guzman 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, On Monday, March 23, 2015, Police Officer Juan Guzman observed an individual, acting in a suspicious manner, attempting to access the south walkway of the George Washington Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the individual from a brief encounter he had with him the day before, Officer Juan Guzman engaged in conversation, asking simple questions such as his date of birth and current address, neither of which he could answer; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he avoided eye contact with Officer Juan Guzman, further raising his suspicions; during this time the individual voluntarily agreed to be transported to the George Washington Bridge Police Command; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, while being interviewed, the individual's true identity was revealed and the information was provided to the Central Police Desk where he was identified as a possible member of a terrorist organization; the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force now joined the Port Authority Police Investigation as the individual became a suspect in possible planned terror activities; and

WHEREAS, Police Officer Juan Guzman's instincts and swift actions lead to the suspect, and another unnamed individual, being charged by the FBI with plotting to attack targets in New York City on behalf of the Islamic State terror group; and

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; Officer Juan Guzman is such an individual; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 honor Police Officer Juan Guzman 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 Police Officer Juan Guzman.