

## 2015-J5222

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Eric Smith upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Star of Life Award by the American Ambulance Association

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who give outstanding service to the people of the Empire State and whose extraordinary achievements save the lives of their fellow citizens should be recognized because their efforts so profoundly strengthen our shared commitment to family and community life; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Eric Smith upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Star of Life Award by the American Ambulance Association in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Eric Smith's commitment to service is outstanding; his determination and perseverance in the most challenging emergency situations exemplifies the selfless spirit found in our Nation's first responders; and

WHEREAS, A Rural/Metro Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Eric Smith was nominated for this prestigious award based on his response in two separate high-profile incidents that occurred in 2014; and

WHEREAS, The first incident occurred when Eric Smith and his partner were traveling east on Route 33, when a vehicle suddenly crashed into the sidewall barrier, landing on Route 33; the vehicle immediately engulfed in flames with the driver trapped inside; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation, Eric Smith rushed to the vehicle and in an attempt to save the driver despite significant personal risk; and

WHEREAS, The second incident occurred during the transport of an eight year-old boy who had gone into cardiac arrest; Eric Smith and his team were driving the young boy when their ambulance was struck by a car

driving the wrong-way on a one-way street; and

WHEREAS, The impact of the accident caused the ambulance to roll onto his passenger door side; Eric Smith was knocked unconscious and wedged under the vehicle's dash; when he awoke, again, with no concern for his own well-being, Eric began providing direction to his co-workers who would care for the boy; and

WHEREAS, Eric Smith began in the field of emergency medical service while serving in the United States Army from 2001 to 2009, achieving a Combat Lifesaver designation; during this time, he also volunteered for the City of Tonawanda Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Eric Smith completed Basic EMT Training at the Erie County Fire Training Academy; he began his illustrious career with Rural/Metro that August, and then pursued additional certifications, progressing to an intermediate EMT in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2015, Eric Smith extended his certification to advanced EMT, and is currently working toward his paramedic certification; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has demonstrated a strong work ethic and character traits of an outstanding EMS provider; he is truly dedicated to the EMS industry and high quality clinical care; and

WHEREAS, On many occasions, Eric Smith has acted with bravery and steady precision in dealing with the risk and drama of emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, In the performance of his duties, Eric Smith has demonstrated his character and his compassion for the welfare of others; he is a tremendous asset to his EMS Unit and a distinguished citizen of the State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Eric Smith upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Star of Life Award by the American Ambulance Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Eric Smith.