

## 2015-J5677

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Superintendent's Commendation Award by the New York State Police on May 26, 2016

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is moved to honor those exemplary public servants who devote their lives to preserving and protecting such values; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Superintendent's Commendation Award by the New York State Police to be celebrated at the 40th Annual Awards Day Ceremony on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at the University at Albany Performing Arts Center, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly has proudly served as a member of the New York State Police since November 28, 1994; he is currently assigned to the State Police Saranac Aviation Station, Troop H, and resides in Bloomingdale, New York; and

WHEREAS, On March 22, 2015, Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly received a request from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) dispatch to assist in the search for a mother and her two young sons, who had gotten lost during a hike on Mt. Marcy, New York's highest peak, on the previous evening; and

WHEREAS, Reacting swiftly, Division Pilot/Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly, along with two DEC Forest Rangers, arrived at the Saranac, New York, hangar, and by 7:20 a.m. the crew had launched their rescue mission in Division helicopter 20SP; unfortunately, heavy fog hindered their search and the mission was aborted; and

WHEREAS, A few hours later, the fog had cleared, however, winds had increased significantly; a second mission was attempted, and after a brief search, Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly observed a subject waving ski poles on the southwest side of the mountain; he circled overhead and made visual contact with the lost hikers; and

WHEREAS, DEC command post was advised, and they decided to drop one of the Forest Rangers into the scene utilizing the aircraft's external hoist; while overhead, Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly observed Special Operations Response Team members (SORT) making their way up the mountain and directed them to the scene; and

WHEREAS, The Forest Ranger and SORT evaluated the lost hikers and prepared them for hoist extraction; the two boys were lifted 160 feet up to the helicopter and transported to Adirondack Medical Center (AMC) in Lake Placid, New York; after refueling, the aircraft returned and extracted the mother and transported her to AMC in Saranac Lake, New York; and

WHEREAS, Although all three individuals were treated for varying degrees of frostbite and hypothermia, everyone survived without serious injury; and

WHEREAS, Through his heroic actions, Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly demonstrated his character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying the collective concern of public servants across the community of the State of New York who respond when others are in need of help; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those extraordinary individuals 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 Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Superintendent's Commendation Award by the

New York State Police; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Technical Sergeant John J. Heverly.