

2015-J6089

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Suffolk County Police Officer Mark L. Collins for his heroic actions in the line of duty on March 12, 2015

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 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 Suffolk County Police Officer Mark L. Collins for his heroic actions in the line of duty on Thursday, March 12, 2015; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to recognize and commend such outstanding law enforcement officers as Mark Collins for their valued contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Mark Collins began his illustrious career with the Suffolk County Police Department on October 20, 2003; he has valiantly served in the Second Precinct Patrol Section, the Public Information Section, the Anti-Crime Enforcement Section, and since March 11, 2013, he has been assigned to the Second Precinct Crime Section; and

WHEREAS, A resident of North Bellmore, New York, Officer Mark L. Collins and another gang unit officer pulled a car over heading east on Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station for a traffic infraction shortly after midnight on March 12, 2015; and

WHEREAS, After recognizing the male in the left rear seat of the vehicle as a gang member with a long history of violence in Suffolk County, Officer Mark L. Collins ordered the man out of the car; the man immediately fled the scene; and

WHEREAS, Officer Mark L. Collins, giving chase to the fleeing suspect, caught up with him at a home and hit him twice in the back with Taser probes; the man fell to the ground, during which time Officer Collins got onto the suspect's back and tried to handcuff him; and

WHEREAS, While actively trying to detain him, the suspect turned onto his side and opened fire with a .38-caliber revolver, shooting Officer Mark L. Collins in the neck and hip; miraculously, he was able to drag himself next to a stoop and position himself so he was covered as much as possible with his bulletproof vest; and

WHEREAS, Once again, the armed suspect fled the scene, and was later tracked down by officers with police dogs nearly a quarter-mile away where they found him in a shed and made the arrest; and

WHEREAS, An esteemed 12-year veteran of the Suffolk County Police Department, Mark L. Collins also serves as a Commissioner of the North Bellmore Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure with the Suffolk County Police Department, Officer Mark L. Collins has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and recognitions some of which include a Bravery Gold Medal, Meritorious Police Service Medal, Cop of the Year Award, Cop of the Month Award, two Department Recognition Awards, seven Letters of Appreciation and four Command Recognition Awards; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife, Nicole, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; 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 exem-

plary contributions and service on behalf of others; Officer Mark L. Collins is such an individual; 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 honor Suffolk County Police Officer Mark L Collins for his heroic actions in the line of duty on March 12, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Officer Mark L. Collins.