

2015-J6524

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending eight teachers, nurses and administrators of Herricks Middle School upon the occasion of their designation as recipients 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 commend the concerned and heroic acts of those citizens who would voluntarily take immediate and appropriate action to protect the health and safety of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the eight teachers, nurses and administrators of Herricks Middle School upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The eight brave individuals include: Vice Principal Tom Aird, Nurse Tracey Baumann, Physical Education Teacher Artie Friess, Physical Education Teacher Dennis Horton, Principal Joan Keegan, Nurse Dana Lieberman, Health Teacher Pam Seebald, and Physical Education Teacher Joe Welsh; 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 September 14, 2016, Sanketh Kumar, an eighth-grader at Herricks Middle School in Albertson, New York, suffered a heart attack during his fourth-period gym class, and his teachers quickly banded together to restart his heart on the school's track; and

WHEREAS, Students had been asked to do a two-minute jog that morning in class, but Sanketh Kumar did not even make it around the track before

he fell to the ground; two students, noticing his hands were spasming, alerted teachers Artie Friess and Joe Welsh, who called 911; and WHEREAS, Nurse Tracey Baumann, was the first to reach the young boy and found he was not breathing and had a weak pulse; his heart appeared to have stopped; she then told Principal Joan Keegan, who was part of the group that responded, to get the Automated External Defibrillator (AED); and

WHEREAS, Responding to the dire situation, a second nurse, Dana Lieberman, administered CPR until Joan Keegan and others brought out a defibrillator; it took just one shock and Sanketh Kumar's heart began to beat again; and

WHEREAS, After 10 days in the hospital, 13 year-old Sanketh Kumar, the loving son of Gopal and Achala Kumar of Williston Park, New York, has made a full recovery and will soon be able to play baseball, his favorite sport; and

WHEREAS, Tom Aird, Tracey Baumann, Artie Friess, Dennis Horton, Joan Keegan, Dana Lieberman, Pam Seebald, and Joe Welsh all demonstrated uncommon courage and determination, acting with alert intelligence and a genuine concern, to save the life of a young student; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend eight teachers, nurses and administrators of Herricks Middle School upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of a Liberty Medal, noting the significance of their immediate and unconditional response to come to the aid of another in a life-threatening situation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the eight aforementioned honorees.