

2015-J6526

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Cullen Malzo 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 incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of exemplary citizens who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Cullen Malzo 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 Thursday, November 10, 2016 Cullen Malzo, a graduate of Lakeland High School, was on his way to a class at Westchester Community College when he heard a loud crash; from his driveway he witnessed a car swerve and then collide with a utility pole before plunging into Lake Mahopac; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation, 19-year-old Cullen Malzo called 911 before rushing to the scene and stopping a passing car to assist him; closing in on the situation, Cullen and the other driver noticed a vehicle flipped over in the lake, 20 to 30 feet from the shore; and

WHEREAS, Upon realizing the severity of what had happened, Cullen

Malzo shed his shoes and jacket, throwing his valuables on the shore, and waded into the water; he found two young women in the submerged vehicle and knew the time to save them was limited; and

WHEREAS, When Cullen Malzo reached for the driver's side door, he noticed the broken glass and realized that the window glass had been shattered; holding his breath, he went underwater to aid the first young woman and lead her to safety; with steadfast determination, he went back down under the water and successfully grabbed the second victim and led her to safety; and

WHEREAS, By the time police officers and firefighters arrived, the two young women were already safely out of the vehicle, due to the quick thinking and astute actions of Cullen Malzo; and

WHEREAS, Praised by Carmel Police and recognized by the town of Carmel, Cullen Malzo demonstrated his character and his compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of the State of New York who voluntarily respond when others are in need of help; and

WHEREAS, Justly recognized as a hero, Cullen Malzo richly merits the admiration of this Legislative Body and his community for his consummate courage and heroic actions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Cullen Malzo upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the 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 Cullen Malzo.