

2017-J531

Senate Resolution No. 531

BY: Senator MARCHIONE

HONORING former Congressman Chris Gibson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Columbia County Association in the City of New York on May 18, 2017

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those individuals of distinguished purpose whose lives have been committed to public service and the pursuit of excellence in the conduct of the legislative process of 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 former Congressman Chris Gibson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Columbia County Association in the City of New York on Thursday, May 18, 2017; and

WHEREAS, A native of Kinderhook, New York, Chris Gibson was born on born May 13, 1964, to Robert and Barbara Gibson; he attended Ichabod Crane High School where he was a point-guard and co-captain of the basketball team; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Siena College in 1986, Chris Gibson joined the United States Army where he served tours in the First Gulf War, Kosovo, and Iraq; he rose to the rank of Colonel and earned

numerous military decorations, including four Bronze Stars, two Legions of Merit and a Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, With a Ph.D. in government from Cornell University, Chris Gibson later became a Professor of American Politics at the United States Military Academy at West Point; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he served as a national security affairs fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University where he published his first book in 2008, *Securing the State*, which offered his overview on national security decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Retiring from the Army in 2010 to run for Congress, Chris Gibson defeated Scott Murphy and served as the United States Representative for New York's 19th Congressional District; he was re-elected in 2012 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious tenure, Chris Gibson made a name for himself, focusing on local issues such as expanding access to broadband and improved treatment of Lyme disease; he held a forum on Lyme disease in Saratoga Springs which attracted 500 people including patients, medical experts, and environmental professionals; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Chris Gibson served as an advocate for the passage of the 2012 Farm Bill and supported reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act; and

WHEREAS, In January of 2015, Chris Gibson, a staunch supporter of term limits, announced that he would not seek re-election in 2016;

originally seen as a possible candidate for Governor in 2018, he announced he would not run for a fourth term to take time for his

family; and

WHEREAS, Chris Gibson will begin teaching leadership studies at Williams College in February of 2017, just weeks after his final term in congress ends; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Mary Jo, and their three children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Every citizen in New York State has most certainly benefited, in one way or another, from the deep dedication, intelligence and passion that former Congressman Chris Gibson brought to his work as a legislator and public-policy maker; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor former Congressman Chris Gibson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Columbia County Association in the City of New York on May 18, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to former Congressman Chris Gibson.