

## 2023-J546

Senate Resolution No. 546

BY: Senator PALUMBO

COMMENDING Bill Gorga 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 the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Bill Gorga 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, Around 2 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023, Bill Gorga of East Marion, New York, was out shopping for Valentine's Day on Front Street in Greenport, New York, when he noticed the car parked in front of him was running; and

WHEREAS, Shortly thereafter, Bill Gorga witnessed the car speed off as a woman frantically came running out of the store, screaming that someone had stolen her car with her grandchild in the car seat; Bill immediately opened the door, and he and the distraught grandmother raced after her vehicle heading west on Route 25; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gorga caught up to the SUV near Moores Lane and cut it off on the shoulder, and the grandmother sprang out of his car and jumped into her vehicle to save the baby; the driver of the stolen car took off again with the both the grandmother and the child inside; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gorga continued to pursue the SUV and managed to get the driver to stop near Silvermere Road, where the thief released the grandmother and child from the stolen vehicle and then continued westbound; and

WHEREAS, As Bill Gorga was calling 911, an officer in a sector car saw the grandmother, child and Bill standing on the shoulder of Route 25 and shared information about the vehicle and a description of the driver to other sector cars; and

WHEREAS, Within minutes, the Southold sector car operator saw the SUV speeding westbound near Town Harbor Lane in Southold and attempted to catch up; the man driving the stolen car sped through Southold Village, passing other vehicles and disregarding traffic signals until he struck a guardrail, drove up onto the Southold American Legion property, and then came to rest along Route 25; and

WHEREAS, Responding officers quickly apprehended him without a struggle and transported him to police headquarters for processing; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gorga, in his spontaneous and heroic acts, has so aptly demonstrated his character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his action, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without thought of danger or reward when others are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Bill Gorga 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 be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bill Gorga.