

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II posthumously 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, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so faithfully and courageously when our Nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II posthumously 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 a resolution in 2014 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, Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II died on Monday, April 28, 2014, at the age of 24, while serving his country in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, A 2008 graduate of Rondout Valley High School, Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II was the son of Heather Stokes and Shawn Farrell; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II began serving his country as a member of the United States Army National Guard in his senior year of high school at a reserve unit in Bullville, New York; after graduation, he went into active duty in Fort Riley, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, based in Fort Drum, New York; and

WHEREAS, A man who was privileged to serve his country, Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II first deployed to Afghanistan in 2010; three years later, he left for his second tour of duty there; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II was called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and always gave of himself unstintingly; before entering the United States Army, he donated his hair to Locks of Love, a charitable agency that helps individuals with cancer and other diseases that result in hair loss; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his parents, Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II is survived by his wife, Allison, his stepfather, David, three brothers and two sisters, as well as many other relatives, all of whom feel privileged to have been a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Today, the bravery and willingness of Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II to fight for the lives of his fellow human beings, continues to inspire, and is deserving of the highest honor by all defenders of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict;

it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who

risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II posthumously 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 the family of Sergeant Shawn M. Farrell II.