

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Peter J. Lewis upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Unit Citation Award by the Biological Science Casework Unit of the Forensic Investigation Center, Troop H, on May 26, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the long-standing efforts of those agencies and individuals in the State of New York who diligently contribute to the efficient operation of our criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Peter J. Lewis upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Unit Citation Award by the Biological Science Casework Unit of the Forensic Investigation Center, Troop H, to be celebrated at the New York State Police 40th Annual Superintendent's Commendation and Awards Day Ceremony on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at the University at Albany Performing Arts Center, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Peter J. Lewis was chosen to receive this auspicious award in recognition of his outstanding service to law enforcement and the people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has proudly served as a member of the New York State Police since July 17, 2000; he is currently assigned to the Forensic Investigation Center, Troop H, and resides in Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, During the June 6, 2015, manhunt for two escaped prisoners from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York, exceptional effort was put forth by the staff, such as Peter J. Lewis, Forensic Scientist 3-DNA, assigned to the Forensic Investigation Center; and

WHEREAS, Of particular note, were the personnel assigned to the Biological Sciences section and the Forensic Identification section, who had more than 900 cases pending analysis between them at the time of this event; and

WHEREAS, These sections were still able to continue to provide a high level of service to all other law enforcement agencies who had submitted evidence for various other criminal investigations; the demands of the manhunt did not deter the efforts of either section from performing and continuing their respective missions; and

WHEREAS, During the course of this escape investigation, numerous items were submitted for analysis; Troop B requested latent print analysis and DNA testing to be performed on these items as soon as possible; during this time, Peter J. Lewis volunteered to work as many hours as needed to ensure these items were processed appropriately, thoroughly, and in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, due to the sheer volume of the evidence, these items were evaluated and analyzed based on their significance to the investigation and processed in stages; the processing of these items took several days, with Peter J. Lewis and other members working well into several evenings; and

WHEREAS, The tradition of noble public service, heroism and leadership embodied by Peter J. Lewis is of such magnitude as to be worthy of special, statewide recognition; this meritorious scientist stands as an integral part of the criminal justice system, and will continue to provide critical and vital service to the residents of our communities; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their

profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Peter J. Lewis upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Unit Citation Award by the Biological Science Casework Unit of the Forensic Investigation Center, Troop H, on May 26, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Peter J. Lewis.