

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Michelle Margilaj upon the occasion of her 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, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Michelle Margilaj upon the occasion of her 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 a Friday night in late April of 2016, Michelle Margilaj, while working at il Laghetto Restaurant on South Lake Boulevard, noticed a capsized kayak with a man clinging to its side in Lake Mahopac; and

WHEREAS, After realizing there was also a small child in the water, Michelle Margilaj, without hesitation, leaped into the bitter cold lake and began swimming towards the capsized kayak; upon reaching the two individuals, she flipped the eight-year-old boy on his back and brought him back to safety; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Michelle Margilaj instructed the father of the little boy to hold on to the kayak and kick his legs; he subsequently also made it back to shore safely; and

WHEREAS, Once the two were brought inside, Michelle Margilaj and the restaurant staff quickly went to work to help them as they waited for the paramedics to arrive, covering the child with numerous tablecloths to keep him warm; and

WHEREAS, A Hopewell Junction resident and Arlington High School graduate, Michelle Margilaj should be meritoriously commended for remaining calm under pressure and for showing valor and true courage while performing a lifesaving deed; and

WHEREAS, Through her spontaneous and heroic actions, Michelle Margilaj demonstrated her character and her compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of her actions, the collective concern of citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without the 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 honor Michelle Margilaj upon the occasion of her 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 Michelle Margilaj.