

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Superintendent's Commendation Award by the New York State Police on May 26, 2016

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is moved to honor those exemplary public servants who devote their lives to preserving and protecting such values; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Superintendent's Commendation Award by the New York State Police to be celebrated at the 40th Annual Awards Day Ceremony on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at the University at Albany Performing Arts Center, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena has proudly served as a member of the New York State Police since September 27, 1993; he currently serves as a Senior Firearms Instructor at Troop B, and resides in Plattsburgh, New York; and

WHEREAS, After the escape of two inmates, Richard Matt and David Sweat, from Clinton Correctional Facility on June 6, 2015, Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena was assigned to the manhunt; after reports of shots fired in the area of State Route 30 in the town of Malone, New York, he and his strike team swiftly responded to the site; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena located a small camper where he observed footprints leaving the area, and detected the odor of gunpowder in the air; he advised the United States Customs and Border Protection Tactical Unit (BORTAC) of his assessment, and the team swiftly entered the woods south of the camper; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena was then told of a second camper trailer south of his location which had reportedly been struck by gunfire a short time earlier; he located the camper, and noted a shotgun slug hole in its side, concluding that the trailer had recently been in his previous location where he smelled the gunpowder; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena notified the Forward Operating Base and relayed this information to detail assets; he then returned to his original location where he advised a second tactical team of the presence of BORTAC in the woods to avert the potential for a "Blue on Blue" incident; and

WHEREAS, He then deployed his strike team on the wood line north of the BORTAC location; Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena was advised that two distinct coughs were heard within the wooded area, and he immediately advised the tactical teams who located and engaged escapee inmate Richard Matt, who was armed with a .20 gauge shotgun; and

WHEREAS, Richard Matt refused to drop the weapon, which necessitated the BORTAC team to use deadly physical force to subdue him; Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena then established a perimeter around the escapee's body while the tactical assets swept the area for David Sweat; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena who took prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those extraordinary individuals who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy and due full praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Superintendent's Commendation Award by the New York State Police; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Pena.