

Senate Resolution No. 1907

BY: Senator LARKIN

HONORING Heather M. Howley upon the occasion of being named a 2017 Orange County Woman of Achievement

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those women of achievement within the Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who inspire others through their model citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Heather M. Howley upon the occasion of being named a 2017 Orange County Woman of Achievement by the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson and the YWCA Orange County to be recognized at its 25th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at Anthony's Pier 9, New Windsor, New York; and

WHEREAS, CEO and Chief Pilot for Independent Helicopters LLC, Heather M. Howley grew up in Albany, New York; despite a huge fear of heights, she traveled across Europe on small planes and in 2005, she relocated to the West Coast with just \$1,000 to her name; and

WHEREAS, Soon after arriving in San Diego, Heather M. Howley had the opportunity to take a free helicopter ride, and it was at that moment that she realized her passion for flying; and

WHEREAS, Heather M. Howley began aviation classes at a local community college; her initial training included 200 hours of flight time, student loans and online classes, all while working two full-time jobs; and

WHEREAS, In the summer of 2007, Heather M. Howley accepted a position as a helicopter instructor with Silver State Helicopters based at Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, before the possibility of owning her own business presented itself; and

WHEREAS, Heather M. Howley founded Independent Helicopters LLC in the fall of 2008; located in Newburgh, the company offers helicopters for charter, flight instruction, tours, aerial photography, and power line and pipeline patrol; and

WHEREAS, After meeting the love of her life at Kobelt Airport in the Hamlet of Wallkill, Heather M. Howley and Marius Ivascu were united in marriage on March 9, 2013; that summer, she opened her second flight school at Saratoga County Airport; and

WHEREAS, Heather M. Howley went on to earn her airplane license, and currently has more than 5,000 hours of flight time; she is a certified instrument flight instructor and airline transport pilot, flying both helicopters and airplanes; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to the community, Heather M. Howley is a member of Women in Aviation International and Whirly Girls, an organization for female helicopter pilots; she also partners with Girl Scouts to work with young girls ages 8 to 13 on their aviation badge; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in memory of her late husband, the first Marius Ivascu Aviation Scholarship will be awarded to a student who embodies his true spirit, drive and determination; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes that New York State is the home to countless women who are strong and colorful threads, vital to the fabric of our rich heritage, who have contributed, and continue to add to the advancement of our culture through their traditional and non-traditional roles in society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Heather M. Howley upon the occasion of being named a 2017 Orange County Woman of Achievement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Heather M. Howley.