

Senate Resolution No. 1632

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Ava Horton, Meka Boncie-Machin and Emily St. John upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Ava Horton, Meka Boncie-Machin and Emily St. John upon the occasion of their designation as recipients 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 April 23, 2019, students Ava Horton, Meka Boncie-Machin and Emily St. John were at Collins Lake in Scotia, New York, when they witnessed a visibly disoriented man entering the water; the man's mother ran in after him and began calling for help as she could not swim; and

WHEREAS, Responding without hesitation or regard for their own safety, Ava Horton immediately dialed 911 while Meka Boncie-Machin jumped into the water to help; and

WHEREAS, After realizing the victim was unconscious, Meka Boncie-Machin attempted to drag both the man and his mother toward the shore; Emily St. John then jumped in the water to help her struggling friend, during which time the police arrived and were able to complete the rescue; and

WHEREAS, Ava Horton, Meka Boncie-Machin and Emily St. John, in their spontaneous and heroic act, have so aptly demonstrated their character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of their actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without 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 commend Ava Horton, Meka Boncie-Machin and Emily St. John upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ava Horton, Meka Boncie-Machin and Emily St. John.