

BY: Senator PALUMBO

COMMENDING Dave Cook upon the occasion of his designation as recipient 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 Dave Cook upon the occasion of his 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, Dave Cook, a school custodian at Rocky Point High School, is credited with saving a student who was choking in the cafeteria; and

WHEREAS, 15-year-old Avery Ward who is a ninth-grade student at Rocky Point High School, was at school eating lunch with her friends when she took a bite of a French fry right before she started to laugh; she then realized she could not talk or breathe; and

WHEREAS, Dave Cook, who has been employed with the school for 20 years, was at one end of the cafeteria when he heard of a medical emergency at the other end; responding without hesitation, he jumped into action and performed the Heimlich maneuver; after five attempts, he was able to successfully dislodge the piece of food from the young girl's throat; and

WHEREAS, Dave Cook, in his spontaneous and heroic act, has so aptly demonstrated his character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his action, 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 Dave Cook upon the occasion of his 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 Dave Cook.