

Senate Resolution No. 1323

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING Lieutenant Brian Townsend 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, Citizens across the State of New York are inspired by and indebted to our noble firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, New York State firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and their selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Lieutenant Brian Townsend 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, On the evening of September 12, 2020, Lieutenant Brian Townsend, a 15-year veteran of the Rome Fire Department, was off-duty at a camp with his family when he was made aware that two boats had collided at nearby Fourth Lake in Herkimer County; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation or regard for his own safety, Lieutenant Brian Townsend rushed to the scene where a 22-year-old man crashed his ski boat into a pontoon boat, which had five people on board, including two young children; and

WHEREAS, As one of the first on the scene, Lieutenant Brian Townsend began triage and treatment of four critically injured people, and was there to manage the scene to ensure the Town of Webb Police Officers were able to focus on other critical tasks; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his astute actions, Lieutenant Brian Townsend was named Firefighter of the Year by the Oneida County Fire Chiefs Association on Thursday, September 9, 2021, in Verona, New York; and

WHEREAS, A truly brave and courageous man, Lieutenant Brian Townsend played a vital role in this extraordinary rescue effort, and should be praised by the people of this great Empire State for his selfless actions in attempting to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Brian Townsend, 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 first responders across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without thought of danger or reward when others are in need of help; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters unwaveringly serve our great State with pride, valor, and integrity; these respected men and women are often the first to respond to an emergency, whether the emergency is a fire, an accident, natural disaster, act of terrorism, medical crisis, or spill of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others and a tireless sense of community to forsake precious time with family and friends to respond to the signal that a neighbor is in need; Lieutenant Brian Townsend is such a firefighter; he heroically performs, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Lieutenant Brian Townsend 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 Lieutenant Brian Townsend.