

Senate Resolution No. 1345

**BY:** Senator SAVINO

**COMMENDING** Michael Arvanites 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 Michael Arvanites 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 morning of Saturday, June 19, 2021, Michael Arvanites stopped at the election polls at Staten Island Technical High School where he was working as a troubleshooter during early voting for the 2021 primary elections when he was alerted by the site coordinator that a co-worker collapsed; and

**WHEREAS,** Without hesitation, Michael Arvanites ran over to the 78-year-old man, who was suffering from cardiac arrest, and immediately began administering hand-only CPR; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Arvanites resuscitated the victim before firefighters took over; he was transported by ambulance to Staten Island University Hospital where he received emergency treatment and underwent coronary bypass and aortic valve replacement surgery; he is doing well and is expected to make a full recovery; and

**WHEREAS,** A native Staten Islander, Michael Arvanites, 45, was raised along with his brother and sister in the quiet neighborhood of Westerleigh, where he learned CPR as an Eagle Scout in Troop 26; he graduated from Susan Wagner High School in 1994, and the State University of New York at Cortland in 1998; and

**WHEREAS,** After a long and distinguished career in public service, Michael Arvanites currently works to ensure people's right to vote as an Elections Surveyor for the NYC Board of Elections; a man of great faith, he is also an active member of Holy Trinity St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church; and

**WHEREAS,** Justly recognized as a hero, Michael Arvanites richly

merits the admiration of this Legislative Body and his community for his consummate, swift action in saving the life of this renowned and beloved poll worker; and

**WHEREAS,** Moreover, Michael Arvanites should be meritoriously commended for remaining calm under pressure and for showing valor and true courage while performing a lifesaving deed; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Arvanites, 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 Michael Arvanites 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 Michael Arvanites.