

BY: Senator PALUMBO

HONORING the Port Jefferson Grand Republic Ferry's captain and crew upon the occasion of receiving the Coast Guard's Public Service Commendation Award

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 honor the Port Jefferson Grand Republic Ferry's captain and crew upon the occasion of receiving the Coast Guard's Public Service Commendation Award; and

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, January 18, 2022, an 18-month old girl from Stony Brook, New York, was traveling with her family back to Port Jefferson from Bridgeport on the Grand Republic Ferry when she fell from her parent's car and onto the deck; and

WHEREAS, During this time, the victims grandfather swiftly carried the toddler, who was lifeless, blue, unresponsive and not breathing, up the stairs to seek help; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation, the ship's crew immediately began rendering life-saving care to the child before making the decision to turn the ferry around all while coordinating EMTs to meet them on the scene upon their arrival back in Bridgeport; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the courageous actions of the Ferry's captain and crew, the little girl regained breathing, consciousness and color; today, she is home playing, talking and singing, having made a full recovery; and

WHEREAS, For their diligence, bravery and professionalism, these 12 noble men played a vital role in this extraordinary rescue effort, and should be praised by the people of this great Empire State for their astute actions in preserving the life of another; and

WHEREAS, In their spontaneous and heroic acts, the captain and crew of the Grand Republic Ferry 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 honor the Port Jefferson Grand Republic Ferry's captain and crew upon the occasion of receiving the Coast Guard's Public Service Commendation Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Captain, Mark Soderstrom; Mate, Jeff Wisniski; Able Seaman, Robert Decaminada; Able Seaman, Paul Dematteo; Able Seaman, David Hamill; Able Seaman, Jake Rosenfeld; Ordinary Seaman, Pat Dugre; Ordinary Seaman, Bill Schlotterhausen; Concessionaire, Ray Bratisax; Bartender, Ken Page; Chief Engineer, Rudy Houdek; and Assistant Engineer, Paul Cavanaugh.