

BY: Senator REICHLIN-MELNICK

COMMENDING Jimmy Sanchez, Jessica Lappe, Christian Florencia and Matthew Irizzary 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 Jimmy Sanchez, Jessica Lappe, Christian Florencia and Matthew Irizzary 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 Tuesday, March 22, 2022, an official working a high school boys lacrosse scrimmage at Tappan Zee High School collapsed on the field; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Sanchez, a New York City Fire Department Lieutenant who serves on Engine 34 in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen and the father of two lacrosse players, immediately left the stands and hopped over the fence to the field where he observed the referee's breathing was labored and his heartbeat was irregular before his pulse stopped completely; and

WHEREAS, Simultaneously, Tappan Zee Athletic Trainer Jessica Lappe instructed Christian Florencia and Matthew Irizzary, two students who were shadowing her, to call 911 and retrieve the automated external defibrillator (AED); and

WHEREAS, Working together, Jessica Lappe began performing CPR while Jimmy Sanchez hooked up the AED; after administering the AED, the victim's pulse returned and moments later the South Orangetown EMS arrived on the scene; the referee was transported to Montefiore Nyack Hospital and is expected to make a full recovery; and

WHEREAS, Justly recognized as heroes, Jimmy Sanchez, Jessica Lappe, Christian Florencia and Matthew Irizzary richly merit the admiration of this Legislative Body and their community for their consummate, swift action in saving the life of this referee; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, they should be meritoriously commended for

remaining calm under pressure and for showing valor and true courage while performing a lifesaving deed; and

WHEREAS, These four extraordinary individuals, in their spontaneous and heroic acts, 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 Jimmy Sanchez, Jessica Lappe, Christian Florencia and Matthew Irizzary 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 Jimmy Sanchez, Jessica Lappe, Christian Florencia and Matthew Irizzary.