

BY: Senator SKOUFIS

COMMENDING Chief Ryan T. Falk 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 Chief Ryan T. Falk 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 Thursday, January 6, 2022, Highland Falls Fort Montgomery Fire Chief Ryan T. Falk was riding in his Chief's vehicle with his wife when he received a mutual aid call for a structure fire on Jevens Road; and

WHEREAS, Chief Ryan T. Falk immediately responded to the call and quickly ran to the front door of the burning building, and upon opening it, noticed an elderly woman at the top of the stairs; he attempted to verbally direct her to exit the home, however, instead of leaving, the woman turned around and began to head back towards the fire; and

WHEREAS, Without regard for his own safety, Chief Ryan T. Falk entered the building and physically guided the disoriented woman to safety outside; after performing this heroic act, he went back to the command post and assisted in managing and directing firefighter operations until the emergency was mitigated; and

WHEREAS, Due to Chief Ryan T. Falk's astute actions and extensive training, the woman did not suffer any serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Thomas Falk was born to Martha and Carl Falk on January 16, 1982, in the Hudson Valley, growing up in Highland Falls, New York, where he participated in the varsity hockey program and graduated from James I. O'Neil High School in 2000; and

WHEREAS, From an early age, Ryan T. Falk knew he wanted to be a firefighter when he grew up; following in his mother's footsteps, he joined the Ambulance Corp as a driver in 2002, and two years later, he fulfilled his dream by becoming a member of the Fort Montgomery Fire Department; at the completion of his first year of service, he was named the Rookie of the Year; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, Ryan T. Falk took on the role of Second Lieutenant and through the years, held each line officer's position until he was elected Chief in January of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his 18 years of service to the community, Chief Ryan T. Falk has been a member of countless committees, was awarded the President's Award in 2010, and has selflessly dedicated himself to all aspects of the fire service including the Fire Prevention Program, Public Outreach, and the morale and wellness of his fellow members; 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; Chief Ryan T. Falk 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 Chief Ryan T. Falk 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 Chief T. Ryan Falk.