

BY: Senator MARTINS

HONORING Derek Valance upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Impact Award by the Tribute and Honor Foundation on February 3, 2024

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces, who served so faithfully and courageously in wars in which our Nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve the highest commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Derek Valance upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Impact Award by the Tribute and Honor Foundation, to be celebrated at its 3rd Annual Phoenix Rising Awards ceremony on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Crescent Beach Club in Bayville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Tribute and Honor Foundation exists to honor, pay tribute, and celebrate our veterans and the veteran community, while also seeking out opportunities to support our heroes and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Impact Award recognizes the strong relationship that exists between returning veterans and first responders; the Award is presented to a veteran who has made a strong impact on the community through his service in the military and as a first responder; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Glen Cove, New York and graduate of Glen Cove High School, Derek Valance is a former Navy SEAL and is currently serving as a police officer with the Glen Cove Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Derek Valance demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Derek Valance upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Impact Award by the Tribute and Honor Foundation on February 3, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Derek Valance.