

Senate Resolution No. 1758

BY: Senator RHOADS

COMMENDING Carter Santelmo 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 lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Carter Santelmo 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 April 1, 2023, seven-year-old Carter Santelmo, of Levittown, New York, his four-year-old brother, Maxwell, their mother, aunt, and two cousins were enjoying recreation in a swimming pool while on vacation in Florida; both mothers conscientiously supervised their children, especially since there was no lifeguard present; and

WHEREAS, Although Carter Santelmo's mother was vigilant, her attention was temporarily diverted; no one noticed that Maxwell Santelmo removed his swim vest and jumped into the deep end of the pool; there were no witnesses to the frightening battle for survival that was soon followed by stillness; and

WHEREAS, It was Carter Santelmo, wearing goggles and swimming in the deep end, who discovered his unconscious younger brother's body floating in the water; without hesitation, he pulled his sibling to the wall of the pool and cried out to his mother for help; and

WHEREAS, The small child was held upright until the rescue service personnel arrived on the scene just a few minutes after being dispatched; Carter Santelmo's brother was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for observation and discharged two days later; there was no accurate determination of the amount of time the little boy was submerged in the water; and

WHEREAS, For the expediency with which Carter Santelmo acted to save his brother, the Northside Elementary School second-grade student received a standing ovation from family members and loved ones in attendance at the Levittown Board of Education's meeting; his bravery was acknowledged throughout the school; for his quick thinking and

selfless deed, he now has the nickname "Captain" Carter; and

WHEREAS, There was even a post by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO), honoring this young hero's bravery and decisive action with the Samaritan Award as part of the PBSO Annual Awards ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Carter Santelmo, 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 need help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Carter Santelmo 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 Carter Santelmo.