

Senate Resolution No. 1818

BY: Senator WEBER

COMMENDING Jean Donald Mathieu 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 custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens who demonstrate great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York, there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary service on behalf 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 Jean Donald Mathieu 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 Saturday, February 3, 2024, Jean Donald Mathieu, of Spring Valley, New York, was returning home after his workday when he witnessed smoke coming from a multi-story apartment building in his Rockland County neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation, Jean Donald Mathieu ran toward the burning residence, climbed a tree, jumped over a metal fence, ascended the smoking building's narrow fire escape ladder, and entered the apartment where the blaze originated; and

WHEREAS, As the building's residents made their way through the choking smoke in the hallways and descended the fire escape, Jean Donald Mathieu rushed into the apartment where he observed eight-month-old Isabella with her mother, Katia, and a second woman who were trapped inside the burning residence; as a husband and father of one son, he immediately responded to the crisis without concern for his own safety; and

WHEREAS, More than 75 firefighters from five departments responded to the alarm that was issued and controlled the blaze within 20 minutes; although the building's tenants escaped the fire, two individuals required medical attention for smoke inhalation, bringing awareness of the potential tragedy to the residents of the neighborhood who recognize the courage, compassion, and selflessness of Jean Donald Mathieu; and

WHEREAS, Jean Donald Mathieu has been revered as an admirable worker, named Employee of the Year twice during his tenure with Venus Laboratories, Inc., since he was added to the company's workforce in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Featured in the corporation's "Employee Spotlight" for his dependability, efficiency, and exemplary leadership in the workplace, Jean Donald Mathieu has been heralded for his quality work, positivity, productivity, and willingness to help whenever needed, making him a well-respected member of his community; and

WHEREAS, A truly courageous man, Jean Donald Mathieu played a vital role in this extraordinary rescue effort and should be praised by the people of this great Empire State for his astute actions in attempting to preserve the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, In his spontaneous and heroic act, Jean Donald Mathieu has so aptly demonstrated his character and compassion for others, personifying, by virtue of his actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without thought of danger or reward when fellow constituents are in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those citizens who unselfishly assist and protect others are worthy and due full praise for their noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Jean Donald Mathieu 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 Jean Donald Mathieu.