

BY: Senator MATTERA

COMMENDING Michael Philip Pitre, Michael Susinno, Shane McCoy, and John McPartland for their designation as recipients of Liberty Medals, 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 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 Michael Philip Pitre, Michael Susinno, Shane McCoy, and John McPartland upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of Liberty Medals, 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 the evening of Sunday, June 23, 2024, a 33-year-old woman was driving northbound on Bread and Cheese Hollow Road in Northport, Long Island, New York, where she swerved to avoid colliding with an animal; the driver's vehicle struck a utility pole, and both the pole and her vehicle caught fire; and

WHEREAS, Shane McCoy was driving home that night when he suddenly noticed that the black Hyundai had crashed diagonally into the utility pole, obscuring the street and catching on fire; and

WHEREAS, Shane McCoy heard popping sounds which authorities later said were the vehicle's tires and windows exploding; as he neared the vehicle, he observed bystanders running toward the Hyundai, and two men, Michael Susinno and John McPartland, were already at the car, talking to the driver through the window; and

WHEREAS, Michael Susinno and John McPartland were two vehicles behind the Hyundai when the collision occurred; only seconds after they approached the wreckage, the flames erupted 15 feet high, causing the utility pole to explode; the two Samaritans could feel the heat of the blaze which was creeping toward the windshield; they recognized the urgency of removing the victim to save her life; and

WHEREAS, Michael Pitre, a medical malpractice attorney who arrived at the scene, also heard the popping sounds; Shane McCoy immediately pulled his car to the side of the road, put his hazard lights on, and ran over to the Hyundai to see if he could assist; and

WHEREAS, Shane McCoy and Michael Pitre arrived at the Hyundai at the same time; the woman had sustained a serious laceration to her leg, extending below her knee to her ankle, and she was losing blood rapidly; and

WHEREAS, After helping the three other men carry the victim to the safety of the other side of the road and position her on the ground, Shane McCoy secured a bystander's belt, and he and Michael Pitre wrapped the woman's leg at the thigh to stop the bleeding; at the moment she was placed on the ground, her vehicle became fully engulfed in flames; and

WHEREAS, Michael Susinno, Orchestra Director at Northport High School, recognized the young woman as one of his students 20 years ago; he reminded her that he was one of her teachers when she played the cello in high school; this familiarity was instrumental in calming and comforting the traumatized victim who not only suffered a lacerated and broken leg but also had difficulty breathing due to the impact of the airbag; and

WHEREAS, The woman was transported to the hospital where she was treated for non-life-threatening injuries; due to the noble and courageous actions of Michael Philip Pitre, Michael Susinno, Shane McCoy, and John McPartland, a precious life was saved, and a seemingly dire situation had positive results; and

WHEREAS, The victim, as well as her family and friends, will be eternally grateful for the quick thinking and actions of the benevolent men who risked their own safety to rescue someone in need of help; the 33-year-old woman's mother, who is also employed at Northport High School, sees Michael Susinno at work every day; and

WHEREAS, Michael Philip Pitre, Michael Susinno, Shane McCoy, and John McPartland, in their spontaneous and heroic act, have so aptly demonstrated their character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of their 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 Michael Philip Pitre, Michael Susinno, Shane McCoy, and John McPartland upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of Liberty Medals, 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 Michael Philip Pitre, Michael Susinno, Shane McCoy, and John McPartland.