

Senate Resolution No. 617

**BY:** Senator MATTERA

**COMMENDING** Stella Tsimis upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

**WHEREAS,** It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of exemplary citizens who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Stella Tsimis upon the occasion of her 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 February 1, 2023, Helen B. Duffield Elementary School teacher aide Stella Tsimis was working in the cafeteria during lunchtime when she heard two students yelling "Seren is choking" and saw the young girl running toward her, with a red face, and pointing to herself to show she was struggling; and

**WHEREAS,** Without hesitation, Stella Tsimis performed the Heimlich maneuver on the terrified 7-year-old, successfully dislodging the food from her esophagus; and

**WHEREAS,** Seren Mavruk immediately and gratefully gave Stella Tsimis a hug and she and her friends drew her a picture on a poster board that was surrounded by stars and hearts and read "Thank You HERO"; and

**WHEREAS,** Those who have the privilege of knowing Stella Tsimis, know she is always ready and willing to lend a helping hand and always puts others first; she has a heart of gold and is known for the kindness and generosity she bestows upon everyone she meets, especially children; and

**WHEREAS,** A longtime resident of Nesconset, Long Island, Stella Tsimis is a loving, supportive wife to her husband George and a dedicated mother to her four boys, Elias, Alexander, Zachary and Michael; and

**WHEREAS,** Prior to her employment with Helen B. Duffield Elementary School, Stella Tsimis spent many years working in the healthcare sector,

serving in a variety of roles for sundry medical fields including dermatology, neurology and cardiology; and

**WHEREAS,** Fortunately for Seren and each and every student, teacher and staff member at the elementary school, Stella Tsimis has been trained in CPR and various life-saving techniques; and

**WHEREAS,** Stella Tsimis also volunteers her time and energy to various organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House, Saint Basil Academy, and the Feal Good foundation; and

**WHEREAS,** Praised for her swift actions, Stella Tsimis demonstrated her true character and genuine compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of her actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of the State of New York who voluntarily respond when others are in need; and

**WHEREAS,** Justly recognized as a hero, Stella Tsimis richly merits the admiration of this Legislative Body and her community for her consummate courage and heroic actions; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Stella Tsimis upon the occasion of her 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 Stella Tsimis.