

Senate Resolution No. 1473

BY: Senator RYAN C

COMMENDING John J. Cottrell 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, Members of the police force of the State of New York, serving their communities with bravery and honor, deserve a special salute from this esteemed Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend John J. Cottrell 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, John J. Cottrell, of Syracuse, New York, is a dedicated and exemplary public servant who has spent his life tirelessly and selflessly working to support the people of his community; and

WHEREAS, John J. Cottrell, who was named the Cicero Police Department's Community Policing Officer of the Year, has lived a life defined by service, dedication, and integrity; when he is not fulfilling his duties as a member of the Geddes Police Department, he contributes to his community through coaching Pop Warner football, participating in the Special Olympics, and organizing several annual Special Olympics fundraisers; and

WHEREAS, For his outstanding performance, unwavering commitment to public safety, and reflection of the highest standards of professionalism and dedication, John J. Cottrell has received a Letter of Commendation from the Geddes Police Chief; and

WHEREAS, On the evening of Sunday, September 28, 2025, while serving as the Head Coach of the 10U Geddes Knights Pop Warner football team at the Geddes ball fields, John J. Cottrell observed a disturbance involving a group of males engaged in a physical altercation at the northwest corner of the field; during the incident, he identified one individual who held a knife and another who appeared to draw a handgun from his waistband; and

WHEREAS, Despite being off duty and unaware that a male had already been stabbed, John J. Cottrell immediately took decisive action by approaching the group and identifying himself as a police officer; and

WHEREAS, When the individual with the knife, along with three other males, fled across the field toward the parking lot, John J. Cottrell

pursued them on foot; he stopped at his personal vehicle to retrieve his police credentials and continued the pursuit, ultimately confronting the group in the parking lot; maintaining a safe distance, due to the potential threat of armed individuals, he identified himself as a police officer again, instructing them to stop, to which the individuals complied; and

WHEREAS, While awaiting the arrival of Geddes Police units, John J. Cottrell observed the group pacing between vehicles before entering a vehicle and fleeing the scene; he promptly provided responding officers with a detailed description of the suspects, their vehicle, and the license plate number; additionally, he recognized one of the individuals which proved to be critical information for the investigation; and

WHEREAS, John J. Cottrell's courage, professionalism, and calm demeanor during this incident were truly exemplary; despite the inherent risks involved in intervening in an off-duty capacity, his actions undoubtedly prevented a potentially larger tragedy from unfolding; his dedication, extensive training, and more than two decades of law enforcement experience were evident throughout the incident; and

WHEREAS, John J. Cottrell stands as an example of duty, perseverance, and service to both country and community; his contributions represent the very spirit of the New York State Senate Liberty Medal; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism, as a Seabee in the United States Navy, John J. Cottrell has demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend John J. Cottrell 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 John J. Cottrell.