

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Joshua VanDeMortel in recognition of his heroic actions in saving the lives of two distressed boaters

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the concerned and heroic acts of those citizens within the great Empire State who would voluntarily take immediate and appropriate action to protect the health and safety 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 Joshua VanDeMortel in recognition of his heroic actions in saving the lives of two distressed boaters on Friday, August 12, 2011, on Seneca Lake, New York; and

WHEREAS, 14 year old Joshua VanDeMortel and his brother Matthew, sons of Richard and Debra VanDeMortel, were out on a morning fishing excursion on Seneca Lake with their father and sister when they came upon an emergency situation; these two Boy Scouts instinctively put their Scouting training into action; and

WHEREAS, The VanDeMortel family had been fishing near Belhurst Castle in an 18-foot motorboat and were headed back to the Chamber of Commerce launch when they spotted trouble; a canoe had overturned and two men were in the water, both holding on to their capsized boat; and

WHEREAS, Joshua VanDeMortel and his brother immediately sprang into action and successfully got the two men aboard their family's motorboat; Joshua and Matthew turned the capsized boat right side up, emptied it of water, tied it to their boat and towed it to shore; and

WHEREAS, In his spontaneous and heroic actions, Joshua VanDeMortel demonstrated his character and compassion for the welfare of others, exemplifying the best qualities inherent in our young people; and

WHEREAS, Geneva High School Freshman Joshua VanDeMortel maintains an above 95 GPA and is consistently on the Principal's List; he takes advanced coursework in English, Math, and Science, and studies Latin; and

WHEREAS, The proud recipient of the 2011 Magna Cum Laude National Latin Exam Award, as well as Scholastic Awards in English, Algebra, Earth Science, Social Studies, Music, Latin, Art, and Technology, Joshua VanDeMortel can boast perfect attendance throughout his middle school career and plans to attend college to pursue a career in Technology; and

WHEREAS, A lover of technology and video games, Joshua VanDeMortel also participates in Soccer, Swimming, Wrestling, and Track and Field; furthermore, he greatly enjoys skiing at Bristol Mountain and water skiing and fishing on Seneca Lake; and

WHEREAS, Always giving of his time and energies, Joshua VanDeMortel volunteers for multiple causes including Glenora Wine Festival, Veterans Field of Honor, Geneva Food Pantry Operation Merry Christmas, and is a bell ringer for the Salvation Army; in addition, he often helps out his neighbors with odd jobs and yard work; and

WHEREAS, As a member of Boy Scouts Troop 3, Joshua VanDeMortel holds the Patrol Leader Rank of Life Scout and is currently preparing for his Eagle Scout project; and

WHEREAS, With his sense of civic duty and his commitment to others, Joshua VanDeMortel represents the best development of the potential which is inherent in our most precious resource, our youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Joshua VanDeMortel in recognition of his heroic actions in saving the lives of two distressed boaters; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joshua VanDeMortel, 3098 Johnson Road, Geneva, New York.

