

BY: Senator RITCHIE

COMMENDING Officer William Rafferty 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 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, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Officer William Rafferty 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, One day, a new mother was putting her six-week old premature son into his car seat when he let out an odd cry, his eyes rolled back, and he started to lose color; the mother called 911, and Watertown, New York, Police Officer William Rafferty was the first to arrive on the scene; and

WHEREAS, Officer William Rafferty quickly ran to the baby and observed that he was not breathing; he immediately started to perform CPR on the infant; shortly thereafter, the ambulance arrived and Officer Rafferty jumped into it, continuing to administer CPR until the color on the boy's face came back; and

WHEREAS, Due to Officer William Rafferty's lifesaving actions, the baby will make a full recovery; to commemorate the dramatic event, Officer Rafferty inscribed the date and the words "The day that changed your life and mine" on the back of his watch; and

WHEREAS, Officer William Rafferty should be regarded as a true hero; he has continually devoted himself to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Praised for maintaining his composure and his professional conduct, Officer William Rafferty demonstrated his true character and genuine compassion for the well-being of others; 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 contributions and service on behalf of others; Officer William Rafferty is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those dedicated public servants who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy and due full praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Officer William Rafferty 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 Officer William Rafferty.