

**BY:** Senator BENJAMIN

**COMMENDING** Bonnie Chapman 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; 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 honor Bonnie Chapman 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,** Bonnie Chapman was born on Long Island, New York, at Meadow Brook Hospital on July 21, 1960, to Ann Chapman and Danny Myers; she has three sisters and five brothers and grew up in Freeport, Long Island, where she attended public schools until the 10th grade; and

**WHEREAS,** At the age of 21, Bonnie Chapman moved to Douglass Houses on the Upper West Side of New York City; for the past 19 years, she has been working for the BronxWorks Willow Family Shelter, and currently she serves as a security guard; and

**WHEREAS,** In her spare time, Bonnie Chapman enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with her family; she loves helping people and giving back to her community; and

**WHEREAS,** On Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at 11:45 a.m., a man doused his 32 year-old girlfriend with an unknown substance and set her on fire during an argument in their Upper West Side eighth-floor apartment; the victim, who was engulfed in flames, was knocking on doors and screaming for help in the hallway of the Douglass Houses; quick-thinking neighbor, Bonnie Chapman, grabbed a sheet from her own bed, wrapped the woman in it, and doused the flames; and

**WHEREAS,** The victim suffered severe trauma and burns and was rushed by medics to Harlem Hospital in critical condition where she remains today and continues to be treated for her injuries; 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; Bonnie Chapman is one such individual; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of such high standards, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Bonnie Chapman 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 Bonnie Chapman.