

BY: Senator BENJAMIN

COMMENDING Joseph Seminara 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 Joseph Seminara, Commander, 23rd Precinct, New York Police Department, 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, At approximately 9:15 p.m. on November 29, 2018, Joseph Seminara was off-duty and on his way home after a 14-hour shift in East Harlem when he came upon a multiple-car crash scene on the westbound side of the Belt Parkway near Canarsie, Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Two vehicles were facing the wrong way, and both had sustained heavy front-end damage and were on fire; the driver of one of the vehicles was trapped behind the wheel of her burning and mangled SUV; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Seminara immediately leapt into action speaking reassuringly to the woman and, along with a good Samaritan, pulled her out of the burning vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Seminara 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, Joseph Seminara 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; Joseph Seminara 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 honor Joseph Seminara 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 Joseph Seminara.