

BY: Senator RANZENHOFER

COMMENDING Firefighters James Christopher and Greg Smith upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, Citizens across the State of New York are inspired by and indebted to our noble firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, New York State firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and their selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Firefighters James Christopher and Greg Smith upon the occasion of their designation as recipients 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, Just before 9 a.m. on Friday, May 17, 2019, the Williamsville Fire Department responded to a fire at 327 Evans Street, and instantly smelled smoke; after being alerted from a neighbor there might be someone inside, Chief Richard Maddigan went upstairs and noticed the door to the possible victim's apartment was very hot; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters James Christopher and Greg Smith from Williamsville Engine 1 joined their Chief, and discovered the fire was just inside the door; they immediately began searching the apartment for the resident, whom they found slumped near a chair, unresponsive and in cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, With help from their fellow firefighters, James Christopher and Greg Smith quickly brought the man to safety outside, where the ambulance was waiting to initiate CPR; and

WHEREAS, Due to the prompt and courageous actions of Firefighters James Christopher and Greg Smith, the victim was saved from certain death; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters unwaveringly serve our great State with pride, valor, and integrity; these respected men and women are often the first to respond to an emergency, whether the emergency is a fire, an accident, natural disaster, act of terrorism, medical crisis, or spill

of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others and a tireless sense of community to forsake precious time with family and friends to respond to the signal that a neighbor is in need; James Christopher and Greg Smith are such firefighters; they heroically perform, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend firefighters James Christopher and Greg Smith upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James Christopher and Greg Smith.