

BY: Senator HELMING

COMMENDING Draven Starr-Howell posthumously 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 the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Draven Starr-Howell posthumously 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, On Thursday, July 2, 2020, Draven Starr-Howell of Palmyra, New York, was enjoying a day at the beach when he noticed three women who were in distress off the Westside of the Sodus Point Pier; and

WHEREAS, Responding without hesitation, Draven Starr-Howell jumped into the rough waters and was pulled under by the strong waves and undercurrent after the three women were pulled out of the water; and

WHEREAS, Draven Starr-Howell was pulled from the water and taken to Newark-Wayne Community Hospital before being flown to Rochester General Hospital in serious condition; unfortunately, this brave young man succumbed to his injuries on Friday, July 3, 2020, making the ultimate sacrifice at just 20 years old; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Draven Starr-Howell displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Draven Starr-Howell in his spontaneous and heroic act, has so aptly demonstrated his character and compassion for the welfare of others; personifying, by virtue of his action, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without thought of danger or reward when loved ones are in need of help; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Draven Starr-Howell leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Draven Starr-Howell posthumously 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 the family of Draven Starr-Howell.