

BY: Senator SEWARD

COMMENDING John D. Heller 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 John D. Heller 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, John D. Heller was born September 22, 1980, in Oneonta, New York, the son of John R. and Gayle (Eggler) Heller; and

WHEREAS, A member of Oneonta High School, Class of 2000, John D. Heller furthered his education by attending Herkimer Community College; and

WHEREAS, An area native and former part-time firefighter with the Oneonta Fire Department, John D. Heller was a Life Skills Supervisor at Oneonta Job Corps Academy; he was well-loved and respected by both his co-workers and students; and

WHEREAS, Responding without hesitation, John D. Heller made the ultimate sacrifice Saturday, December 29, 2018, after safely evacuating his fiancée and four nephews from a residential structure fire in the City of Oneonta; and

WHEREAS, John D. Heller 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, Predeceased by his paternal grandparents, Abbie Heller and John O. Heller; maternal grandfather, George L. Eggler; and father-in-law, Herb Roe, John D. Heller is survived by his fiancée and soulmate, Amber Roe; his parents, John and Gayle Heller; brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Erika Heller; four nephews, Donovan, Maddox,

Macall and Rawley Heller; maternal grandmother, Phyllis Eggler; aunts and uncles, George A. Eggler and Evando Macario, Sharon and Clifford Costello, Gary Heller and Christine Eldred and Larry and Sally Heller; and mother-in-law, Cyndy Doroski; as well as several cousins; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend John D. Heller 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 John D. Heller.