

**BY:** Senator RITCHIE

**COMMENDING** CJ Gay 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 CJ Gay 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 the morning of Friday, August 13, 2021, CJ Gay was babysitting at a neighbor's home on Willard Road in the Town of Louisville, New York, when he discovered an electrical fire in the basement; and

**WHEREAS,** As the heat and the smoke increased, CJ Gay responded without hesitation or regard for his own safety, swiftly recognizing the severity of this dangerous situation and calmly calling 911 before waking up the three children in his care and safely evacuating them and their family pets to a neighboring residence; and

**WHEREAS,** Shortly thereafter, members of both the Louisville and Massena Volunteer Fire Departments responded to the scene, located the source of the fire and extinguished it; and

**WHEREAS,** Justly recognized as a hero, CJ Gay richly merits the admiration of this Legislative Body and his community for his consummate, swift action in saving the lives of these three children, their pets and the family's home; moreover, he should be meritoriously commended for remaining calm under pressure and for showing valor and true courage while performing a lifesaving deed; and

**WHEREAS,** CJ Gay, 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 others are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend CJ Gay 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 CJ Gay.