

Senate Resolution No. 2014

BY: Senator RATH

HONORING Officer Dennison Wright upon the occasion of receiving the New York State Police Officer of the Year Award

WHEREAS, New York State has long been committed to supporting its law enforcement professionals; and

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values, worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is moved to honor those individuals who serve to preserve and protect such values, lauding particularly their unwavering loyalty and dedication in the daily performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Officer Dennison Wright upon the occasion of receiving the New York State Police Officer of the Year Award, which was announced by Governor Kathy Hochul on October 13, 2021, the first day of National Police Week which was held in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, First presented in 1984, the New York State Police Officer of the Year Award recognizes a single police officer or team of officers for an exceptional act of valor and courage in the face of grave danger to themselves and residents of the communities they serve; Officer Dennison Wright is truly deserving of this prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, On October 4, 2019, Officer Dennison "Denny" Wright, a 25-year veteran of the Rochester Police Department, was responding to a domestic call on Peck Street which involved an emotionally disturbed man hiding under a bed; and

WHEREAS, Upon arriving at the scene, Officer Dennison Wright talked with the man and coaxed him out of hiding, however, the man became agitated and attempted to leave the home; as family members tried to stop him, he stabbed Officer Wright several times in the face, eyes and lower body; and

WHEREAS, Despite his life-threatening injuries and impaired vision, Officer Dennison Wright remained stalwart in the face of extreme danger, and through his brave actions, kept the others safe while taking the suspect into custody; and

WHEREAS, Fortunately, two bystanders who witnessed the violent attack, rushed Officer Dennison Wright to Rochester General Hospital where he underwent lifesaving surgery; unfortunately, he suffered permanent loss of vision in both eyes; and

WHEREAS, Ever steadfast in his goal to recover, Officer Dennison Wright was transferred to the Golisano Neurology Rehabilitation Center at United Hospital where he learned how to navigate without the use of his eyesight; and

WHEREAS, After two weeks of hard work, Officer Dennison Wright was finally ready to leave the Rehabilitation Center with his loving family by his side; as he approached the exit of the facility, he was greeted by many fellow first responders who shined blue lights and used their sirens to recognize his great progress and heroism; and

WHEREAS, As he was driven home in a police car, Officer Dennison Wright humbly witnessed the outpouring of love and support from his community as Rochester General and Unity Hospitals, the Greater Rochester International Airport and other businesses and homes were illuminated with blue lighting in honor of his great sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, The great State of New York is fortunate to have brave public servants who risk their lives in the line of duty each day to protect the residents of our communities; no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who are willing to put service over self; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 Officer Dennison Wright upon the occasion of receiving the New York State Police Officer of the Year Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Officer Dennison Wright.