

**BY:** Senator RITCHIE

**HONORING** Melissa Russell upon the occasion of her designation as a recipient of the 2020 City of Oswego Hometown Heroes Award

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, to honor those whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Melissa Russell upon the occasion of her designation as a recipient of the 2020 City of Oswego Hometown Heroes Award on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, in conjunction with the observance of National Hero Day; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Oswego Hometown Heroes Award was established in 2020 to recognize individuals from the City of Oswego who quietly go about improving the lives of others through their generosity, energy and spirit; and

**WHEREAS,** Melissa Russell began a program, Blessings in a Backpack, to help feed elementary students on the weekends during the school year; a local chapter was started in 2013 in Oswego, and today it has grown to feed 400 children per-week; and

**WHEREAS,** In recent years, Melissa Russell has worked to secure money and food donations for the program and ensured bags are packed each week; and

**WHEREAS,** Melissa Russell is considered a hero in her community for the work she has done to help feed countless local children in need; and

**WHEREAS,** As a recipient of this most prestigious award, Melissa Russell truly embodies the meaning of service and sets a shining example for others to follow; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Melissa Russell has displayed throughout her life; and

**WHEREAS,** It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Melissa Russell, that future generations may know and appreciate her admirable character, her many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which she is held by her peers; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Melissa Russell upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2020 City of Oswego Hometown Heroes Award, and to wish her

continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Melissa Russell.