Senate Resolution No. 1613

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

RECOGNIZING September 17-23, 2023, as Emergency Management Professionals and Community Emergency Response Team Appreciation Week

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing official weeks which celebrate the vital work and knowledge Emergency Management Professionals and Community Emergency Response Teams bring during disaster situations and which greatly affect the lives of the citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize September 17-23, 2023, as Emergency Management Professionals and Community Emergency Response Team Appreciation Week, in conjunction with the observance of National Preparedness Month; and

WHEREAS, Emergencies and disasters can strike anywhere, at any time; and

WHEREAS, This vital week recognizes the steadfast and unwavering dedication of emergency management professionals and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members who work tirelessly to manage incidents impacting our communities, counties, states and nation such as natural and human caused disasters, technological hazards and pandemics; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, when these professionals are not managing incidents, they are supporting community awareness and preparedness efforts, as well as continuously planning for various types of incidents and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Emergency management coordinators and their staff dedicate countless hours to developing preparedness and response programs to protect the lives and property of residents; and

WHEREAS, Emergency management personnel across the state are charged with establishing and maintaining the capability to effectively direct, control, and coordinate emergency and disaster response and recovery efforts that impact New York State residents; and

WHEREAS, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery are the four main phases of activities that emergency managers implement to create a successful emergency management program; and

WHEREAS, The first CERT team was created in 1986 with the goal of creating citizen volunteers equipped to provide assistance during disaster response; CERT graduates go through a nationally approved training program to learn about fire safety, light search and rescue, first aid and CPR, traffic management, team organization, and disaster medical operations; and

WHEREAS, Today, there are more than 2,800 CERT programs across the

country; the assistance provided by these volunteers frees up professional emergency responders to focus on more specialized tasks during a crisis; and

WHEREAS, Sufficient gratitude cannot be expressed to all those individuals who generously give of their time and talents, working to keep their communities safe; and

WHEREAS, Special recognition should be given to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and they should be acknowledged publicly for the good works they do for the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize September 17-23, 2023, as Emergency Management Professionals and Community Emergency Response Team Appreciation Week; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Emergency Management Professionals and Community Emergency Response Team members and organizations across the State of New York.