Senate Resolution No. 1817

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING Andrew Costello 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 custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished officers and citizens who would devote themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Andrew Costello 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, A remarkable Oneida Nation police officer from Bridgeport, New York, Andrew Costello is worthy of recognition for his actions that saved the life of another individual; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday February 4, 2024, Andrew Costello heroically rescued his neighbor who had fallen through the ice while fishing on Oneida Lake; while off duty, and with no hesitation, he called 911 and grabbed a ladder to run to the aid of the fisherman; and

WHEREAS, Using the ladder and remaining calm under pressure, Andrew Costello was able to safely pull the fisherman from the ice and assist him to shore; Oneida Indian Nation Police and members of the Bridgeport Fire Department reported to the scene shortly after; and

WHEREAS, EMTs on scene reported that the fisherman's safety float suit was severely waterlogged and if Andrew Costello had not acted as quickly as he did, the fisherman would not have survived; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Costello's brave and swift response to this life-saving incident is a testament to the values he holds as an individual; he has shown his commitment to the safety and well-being of Oneida Indian Nation Members and residents of Oneida and Madison Counties; and

WHEREAS, For his astute and courageous actions, Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter and Oneida Indian Nation Police Chief David Verne awarded Costello for his life-saving efforts; 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 commend Andrew Costello 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 Andrew Costello.