Assembly Resolution No. 607

BY: M. of A. Heastie

HONORING the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the members of the New York State Legislative Messenger Service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor individuals who have faithfully served the people and the government of the State of New York with dedication and conscientious service; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Legislative Messenger Service was founded in 1973 as an avenue to provide job training and opportunities to individuals with a disability; emphasis is placed on understanding and amplifying an individual's strengths while providing support, training and structure to lessen any barriers created by their disability; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding service plays a very important role in expediting the work of the New York State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, There are currently 24 employees of the Legislative Messenger Service, as well as one participant in the Apprenticeship Program which was implemented in 2012, and targets individuals with a disability who are transitioning from a school to work setting; the staff take great pride in their work, are eager to learn, and are extremely dedicated; and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Messenger Service provides a communication network throughout the Empire State Plaza and neighboring buildings for New York State Senate and Assembly offices; currently delivering to over 350 offices, on a busy day, more than 300 delivers can be common and Messengers often walk several miles a day; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, most deliveries are completed in under 30 minutes with all packages being tracked for accuracy; and

WHEREAS, In addition to delivering packages, these vital employees of the Legislative Messenger Service answer phones, coordinate the delivery of packages, provide quality control, and act as ambassadors to both the Senate and Assembly; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the hard work, dedication and commitment of the members of the New York State Legislative Messenger Service; and

WHEREAS, For five decades, the New York State Legislative Messenger Service, located in the Legislative Office Building, has provided steadfast and unwavering support for countless offices throughout the Empire State Plaza and neighboring state buildings for Senate and Assembly legislators and their staffs; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated members of the New York State Legislative

Messenger Service can always be relied on to provide swift and dependable service; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Kevin Kather, Director, and Beth Bonesteel, Assistant Director, the members of the New York State Legislative Messenger Service, whom we see hurrying about their rounds, include: Brian Abreu, Greta Amodeo, Edward Blackman IV, Marquez Burns, Michael Cohen, William Crowe, Michelle Daly, Adam Denenberg, Sharon Forkeutis, Marcus Gagnon, Katherine Griffin, Tiek Hardy, Kimberly Lapp, Kathy O'Brien, Patrick O'Hara, Kadija Oliver, Kathleen Schleich, Mollie Shook, Kellsey Wickham, and Valerie Zeh, as well as Apprentice, Noah McDonald; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to recognize and pay just tribute to the members of the New York State Legislative Messenger Service, individuals who embody the true American spirit, demonstrating personal determination and significantly contributing to the workings of the New York State Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the hard work, dedication and commitment of the members of the New York State Legislative Messenger Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the New York State Legislative Messenger Service, and the aforementioned apprentice.