

Senate Resolution No. 17

BY: Senator HELMING

COMMENDING Wendy Boyer upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations to preserve the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Wendy Boyer upon the occasion of her 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 former substitute school bus driver, Wendy Boyer has been employed since March 21, 2022, as a Teacher Aide in a special-needs classroom at Middlesex Valley School in the Marcus Whitman Central School District; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Canandaigua, New York, Wendy Boyer engaged in a heroic act to save a student's life; her duties in the classroom included assisting students with opening food items' packaging as well as separating trash and recyclable items; and

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, Wendy Boyer was serving as cafeteria support during lunchtime; always concerned for the students' safety and well-being, she was alerted to a child who was choking; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation, Wendy Boyer attempted to communicate with the child; assessing the situation, she utilized her training in basic first aid to dislodge the food caught in the student's throat, performing two abdominal thrusts (formerly known as the Heimlich Maneuver); and

WHEREAS, Wendy Boyer's courage and immediate response halted the child's choking and prevented a potentially tragic event; although she is not officially certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), she attended a Good Samaritan course to learn life-saving measures; and

WHEREAS, A quiet and humble person, Wendy Boyer enjoys crafting and working with individuals who would benefit from the assistance of someone with a caring and driven attitude; she is an advocate for those

who may not be able to do so for themselves or have the resources or family and friends for support; and

WHEREAS, Familiar with her willingness to support anyone in need, Wendy Boyer's colleagues were not surprised by her immediate response to an emergency or her possession of the skillset and bravery to save a student's life; and

WHEREAS, Due to Wendy Boyer's noble and courageous actions, a precious life was saved, and a seemingly dire situation had positive results; this humble hero's intervention is a reminder of the profound impact which kindness and preparedness can have not only in our schools but also in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Wendy Boyer, in her spontaneous and heroic act, has so aptly demonstrated her character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of her action, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without thought of danger or reward when others need help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Wendy Boyer upon the occasion of her 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 Wendy Boyer.