Senate Resolution No. 1828

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING Richard Macheda 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 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, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Richard Macheda 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, Richard Macheda, a longtime resident of Cazenovia, New York, served as Chief of Operations for Cazenovia Area Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CAVAC), where he proudly dedicated 25 years as a first responder; he is also a past Chief of the Cazenovia Fire Department, with 39 years of service; and

WHEREAS, A testament to his dedication to community, Richard Macheda actively serves on the Madison County Underwater Recovery Team, Rope Rescue Team, and Search and Rescue Team; he also is a certified CPR instructor through the American Heart Association and serves as Chair for Dig Safely New York; and

WHEREAS, Richard Macheda, on the morning of Friday, December 26, 2025, saw smoke as he drove near North Street in Syracuse, New York; he pulled over as he found a residence ablaze; and

WHEREAS, Upon his arrival to the scene, Richard Macheda met John Canestrare, a Syracuse police officer, who had discovered a woman lying on the ground outside, unconscious, with a severely broken foot; and

WHEREAS, The two brave men acted swiftly, utilizing their first responder knowledge and impulses to begin CPR on the woman in need; Richard Macheda acquired the medical bag from his vehicle and secured an airway for the victim; and

WHEREAS, Richard Macheda assisted in stabilizing the victim of the housefire until firefighters and EMTs arrived; once in the care of the EMTs, Richard Macheda and John Canestrare were notified that a pulse had been restored to the woman, offering the two a moment of relief that

their immediate actions had paid off; and

WHEREAS, The two strangers, recognizing their shared role in the lifesaving response effort, shared a handshake and an embrace, leaving the situation having shown that swift action, teamwork, and confidence can make all the difference; and

WHEREAS, A truly brave and courageous individual, Richard Macheda played a vital role in this extraordinary rescue effort, and should be praised by the people of this great Empire State for his swift actions in working to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Richard Macheda, in his spontaneous and heroic act, has so aptly demonstrated his character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his 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 are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Richard Macheda 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 Richard Macheda.