

## 2013-J2713

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lieutenant Robert O'Connor upon the occasion of his designation as the 2012 New York Officer of the Year by the Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lieutenant Robert O'Connor upon the occasion of his designation as the 2012 New York Officer of the Year by the Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association; and

WHEREAS, Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation Lieutenant Robert O'Connor is a tremendous asset to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Law Enforcement; his notable work ethic, integrity and professionalism make him an outstanding Investigator that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is proud to have working on the public's behalf in environmental criminal enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant O'Connor has served with distinction in the DEC's Division of Law Enforcement for nearly 25 years; after completing DEC's eighth Basic Academy for Police Officers in 1989, Robert O'Connor was initially assigned to patrol Westchester County; he transferred to DEC's Region 9 office in 1992, where he has been serving since; and

WHEREAS, As an Environmental Conservation Officer in Region 9, Lieutenant O'Connor excelled at enforcing the entire range of fish and wildlife conservation law, educating the public and solving numerous cases, including the recovery of the renowned New York State "Lucky Buck" original antlers that had been missing for over a decade; in 2005, he

was promoted to Investigator and joined the DEC's Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI) Unit, where he worked diligently to protect the environment and public health and safety through investigations into environmental crimes and crimes against the state's fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, During his years of service with DEC's Division of Law Enforcement, Lieutenant O'Connor has supported responses to several major emergency events, including his assistance as a first responder to the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant O'Connor is known for his fairness, attention to detail and ability to collaborate effectively with other agencies to successfully resolve cases; he is consistently recognized and relied upon by partner law enforcement agencies for his expertise and efforts to advance interagency cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, Lieutenant O'Connor was promoted from Investigator to Lieutenant and now oversees DEC Region 9's Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation Unit; he resides in Gowanda with his wife and five children; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lieutenant Robert O'Connor upon the occasion of his designation as the 2012 New York Officer of the Year by the Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lieutenant Robert O'Connor.