

2013-J2719

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to Firefighter Ryan Blackwell, in recognition of his prompt and heroic actions on September 14, 2013

WHEREAS, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our noble firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 and property of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to 25-year-old Firefighter Ryan Blackwell, in recognition of his prompt and heroic actions on September 14, 2013; and

WHEREAS, While working an overnight shift with FDNY Ladder 32, a call came in reporting a fire on the fifth floor of a six-story Bronx apartment building; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Ryan Blackwell, along with other crew members, had to knock down the door to enter the burning building; the fire had begun in the kitchen and was moving into the hallway; and

WHEREAS, Encountering difficult conditions including heavy heat and zero visibility, Firefighter Ryan Blackwell was able to push the fire back into the kitchen with an extinguisher; and

WHEREAS, Feeling his way down the hallway, he found a 54-year-old woman unconscious; disregarding his own personal safety and acting in a manner which personifies the finest traditions of those who place their lives in peril to serve others, Firefighter Ryan Blackwell was successful in removing the woman from harm's way; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, a second victim trapped in the burning building succumbed to his injuries; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Blackwell of Brewster, New York, realized his dream of following in his late father's footsteps when he became a New York City firefighter just this year; Christopher Blackwell, a decorated member of FDNY Rescue 3, made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the New York City Fire Department, Ryan Blackwell was a volunteer firefighter with the Putnam Lake Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Justly recognized as a hero, Firefighter Ryan Blackwell richly merits the admiration of this Legislative Body and his community for his consummate courage and bravery on September 14, 2013; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to Firefighter Ryan Blackwell, in recognition of his prompt and heroic actions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Ryan Blackwell.