

2013-J2738

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sergeant Martin Gonzalez upon the occasion of his being awarded the New York State Medal of Valor

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sergeant Martin Gonzalez upon the occasion of his being awarded the New York State Medal of Valor; he received this prestigious distinction on Sunday, November 17, 2013, at a ceremony at Camp Smith, the National Guard training center in Cortlandt Manor, New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Medal of Valor is the highest decoration awarded by the State of New York to a member of the State Organized Militia (Army National Guard, Air National Guard, State Guard, and Naval Militia); it is awarded for a conspicuous act of valor, heroism, courage, or gallantry, in either a military or civilian capacity; and

WHEREAS, On October 5, 2011, Sergeant Martin Gonzalez was a Village of Liberty Police Officer, as well as a member of the 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment in Kingston, New York; he and his partner responded to an emergency call that a Mobil station under renovation in the village had collapsed, trapping two construction workers inside the structure; and

WHEREAS, Paying no thought to his own safety, this brave National Guardsman rushed into the crumbled building and began to administer medical treatment to the victims, drawing on his training as an Army Combat Lifesaver, and remaining in the building even after emergency medical personnel had arrived to provide further assistance; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Martin Gonzalez's quick thinking and heroic actions saved the lives of two people; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Martin Gonzalez is currently enrolled in the Inactive National Guard, on temporary non-duty status; he served for nine years in the Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, In civilian life, this remarkable man is a resident of Woodbourne, New York; he works as a School Resource Officer at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School in the Town of Fallsburg; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Sergeant Martin Gonzalez has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Kristin, and his daughter, Kara, both of whom feel privileged to be in his life, and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Sergeant Martin Gonzalez's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sergeant Martin Gonzalez upon the occasion of his being awarded the New York State Medal of Valor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sergeant Martin Gonzalez.