

2013-J2779

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John Harke upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State Senate Liberty Award

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 safety in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor John Harke upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State Senate Liberty Award; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Award was created in 2000 and is one of the highest civilian honors a New York resident can receive; it is awarded by the New York State Senate to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, On the night of March 14, 2013, John Harke was driving down Verplank Road in Clay, New York, when he noticed a seriously injured 10-year-old girl running along the dark street; and

WHEREAS, John Harke, a resident of the Town of Clay, acted instinctively and pulled his vehicle over to assist in the situation; he led the child to safety, taking her away from a dangerous situation and called 9-1-1; and

WHEREAS, John Harke watched over the 10-year-old girl, and tried to help save the life of another victim who had also been attacked by the same assailant as the child; sadly, she died as a result of her injuries; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of the great State of New York to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of those exemplary citizens who take

prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, Through his heroic actions, John Harke demonstrated his character and his compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the State of New York who voluntarily respond when others are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John Harke upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State Senate Liberty Award, in recognition of his consummate courage, bravery, and heroic action in a time of need; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Harke.