

2013-J4376

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Brian Avery and Robert Cole for their heroism in rescuing a woman from a burning home

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 Brian Avery and Robert Cole for their heroism in rescuing a woman from her burning home on Sunday, November 24, 2013, in Yorktown Heights, New York; and

WHEREAS, Brian Avery, a 48-year-old National Guardsman, husband and father of two, and Robert Cole, a 49-year-old husband and father of two with no firefighting training, saved the life of a 48-year-old wife and mother of three who had just had hip surgery and had been asleep when the fire broke out; and

WHEREAS, Brian Avery saw flames at the house and ran to help; after unsuccessfully attempting to shimmy up a column onto the roof, he ran back to his home to grab a ladder; and

WHEREAS, Robert Cole was driving on his way to a breakfast celebration of his 14th wedding anniversary when he saw smoke; he quickly unfastened his seat belt and followed the smoke until he reached the house; and

WHEREAS, After being told there was a woman upstairs, Robert Cole looked up and saw the victim with her head and shoulders jutting out of a bathroom window, smoke billowing all around; he also tried to climb to the home's second floor with no success; and

WHEREAS, Brian Avery made it back to the home with a ladder and saw Robert Cole; with no thought for their own safety, the two strangers

swung into action, a model of spontaneous teamwork; and

WHEREAS, Brian Avery climbed up first through dense smoke, followed by Robert Cole, who went onto the roof; together they got the woman out of the bathroom window and Brian Avery guided her down to safety, while Robert Cole remained on the roof to get her securely on the ladder; and
WHEREAS, The smoke was so intense that Robert Cole had to wait until the wind shifted so he could see the top of the ladder; once on the ground, he was overcome by smoke and had to be pulled across the street to safety; and

WHEREAS, Within two minutes of the rescue, the entire home was engulfed in flames; and

WHEREAS, Robert Cole and Brian Avery, through their spontaneous and heroic actions, demonstrated character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of their behavior, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of 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 commend Brian Avery and Robert Cole for their heroism in rescuing a woman from a burning home, and to convey its tremendous appreciation for their valiant actions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert Cole and Brian Avery.