

2013-J5270

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the tragic and untimely death of New York State Trooper Ross M. Riley on Wednesday, November 20, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to convey its grateful appreciation and heartfelt regret in recognition of the loss of a courageous police officer who dedicated his purposeful life and career in faithful service to his family, community and the New York State Police; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness that this Legislative Body records the passing of 44-year-old New York State Trooper Ross M. Riley who passed away on November 20, 2013, as a result of injuries he received during a high angle rescue training at Letchworth State Park, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ross M. Riley was born in Auburn, New York, on March 27, 1969, and graduated from Auburn High School; and

WHEREAS, He served his country as a United States Marine from 1987 until he was honorably discharged in 1992; during his military service he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the National Defense Medal; he is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, and served as a Marine Security Guard at the U.S. embassies in Nicaragua and Uruguay; and

WHEREAS, After his military service, he joined the New York State Police, and was assigned to Troops A, E, and F, out of Batavia, Canandaigua, and Middletown; in 2000, he became a member of the Special Operations Response Team (SORT), a tactical response group of highly trained and skilled experts who respond to critical events, disasters, and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Ross M. Riley was with SORT at the time of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and received a commendation for

his service at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, As a dedicated Trooper Ross M. Riley saved numerous lives as a member of SORT, and met the true definition of hero; it was during a SORT high angle rescue training in Letchworth State Park that he fell from a ledge after rappelling approximately 70 feet down into a gorge; he was transported to Wyoming County Community Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries related to the fall; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Ross M. Riley lived his life with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for the welfare of others in the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Ross M. Riley enjoyed mountain climbing, camping trips, working out, riding mountain bikes, and reading; however, most of all, he loved spending time with his family; and

WHEREAS, A devoted family man who always put his family first, Trooper Ross M. Riley is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Heidi, and his three wonderful daughters, Abaigeal, Katherine, and Jillian, as well as many friends and associates at the New York State Police; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Trooper Ross M. Riley leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of New York State Trooper Ross M. Riley, noting the significance of his contributions on behalf of the citizens of this noble Empire State, and expressing its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Trooper Ross M. Riley.