

2015-K132

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jeff Heidtmann upon the occasion of being selected the 2014 Person of the Year by THE SUFFOLK TIMES for rescuing an elderly man who had fallen in an icy river

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of those exemplary citizens, who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, disregarding their own safety, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jeff Heidtmann upon the occasion of being selected the 2014 Person of the Year by THE SUFFOLK TIMES for rescuing an elderly man who had fallen in an icy river; and

WHEREAS, On January 3, 2014, an elderly man was walking along the dock at his house in Southhold, New York, checking on the deicers breaking up the frozen canal when he fell into the frigid water; for more than 15 minutes, he unsuccessfully tried to climb out of the canal; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Heidtmann, the victim's neighbor, was at home due to a blizzard collecting firewood when he heard a man cry for help; he took immediate action and rushed down to the dock, wrapping his legs around a pole to pull the elderly man out by his belt; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Heidtmann then threw the man over his shoulder and ran back up to the snow-covered hill to the victim's house, where he warmed him with blankets and towels as Southhold EMTs rushed to the scene; and

WHEREAS, Even though this situation could have been a dire one, today,

the 85-year-old man is alive and well, and credits Jeff Heidtmann for his quick and astute heroic actions in rescuing him; and

WHEREAS, A week after the rescue, the Southold Town Board presented Jeff Heidtmann with a plaque honoring his heroic efforts; he is truly an inspiration for his courage and decisive action; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Heidtmann through his spontaneous and heroic actions, 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 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 honor Jeff Heidtmann upon the occasion of being selected the 2014 Person of the Year by THE SUFFOLK TIMES for rescuing an elderly man who had fallen in an icy river; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jeff Heidtmann.