

2015-J1252

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Riley Dejong in recognition of her heroic actions in helping rescue passengers after the derailment of a Metro-North commuter train

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Riley Dejong in recognition of her heroic actions in helping rescue passengers after the derailment of a Metro-North commuter train; and

WHEREAS, To observe her courageous efforts, the Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Cross River, New York, will pay just tribute to 19-year-old Riley Dejong at its Annual Awards Ceremony to be held Sunday, April 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, a Metro-North train departed from Grand Central Terminal carrying 650 commuters; shortly before 7:00pm, the commuter train approached a railroad crossing with an SUV stopped on the tracks; and

WHEREAS, Unable to brake in time, the Metro-North train collided with the SUV, prompting a fiery collision, which resulted in the deadliest crash in Metro-North Railroad's 32-year history; and

WHEREAS, Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps Crew Chief/EMT Riley Dejong happened to be a passenger on the train that dreadful day; she was on her way home from CUNY Hunter College in Manhattan, where she is pursuing a degree in Nursing; and

WHEREAS, Responding without hesitation, Riley Dejong remained on the scene after the crash and proceeded to save the life of a fellow passenger who was on fire; in addition, she dragged multiple other passengers

to safety; and

WHEREAS, When one of the responding ambulances was short a Crew Chief, Riley Dejong volunteered to take charge; she provided vital care to patients while being transported by ambulance to Westchester County Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, In addition to volunteering her time as an EMT with the Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Riley Dejong is a Certified Inter- or Firefighter with the Bedford Hills Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Had it not been for Riley Dejong's courage and determination, this perilous situation could have been much worse; she took action without regard for her own safety, which so aptly demonstrates her character and compassion for the safety and welfare of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Riley Dejong in recognition of her heroic actions in helping rescue passengers after the derailment of a Metro-North commuter train; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Riley Dejong.