

2015-J2142

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Riley Dejong upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

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, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Riley Dejong upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; 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 Interim 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; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Riley Dejong upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

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