

## 2015-J2836

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Figo upon the occasion of his 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 service animals, 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 Figo upon the occasion of his 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, 8-year-old Golden Retriever, Figo, is a service animal who is being heralded after saving the life of his blind owner, Audrey Stone; and

WHEREAS, Figo was assisting his owner in crossing Michael Neuner Drive in Brewster, New York, when a mini-school bus started heading towards Audrey Stone; this amazing dog instinctively jumped in front of the bus to protect his beloved owner; and

WHEREAS, Fortunately, both Figo and Audrey Stone survived this traumatic experience; Figo suffered a leg injury, and subsequently, his right front leg is in a splint, and he is resting comfortably at Middlebranch Veterinary clinic, Carmel, New York; and

WHEREAS, At the scene, this courageous dog actively tried to comfort Audrey Stone as he was being treated for his injuries; and

WHEREAS, Regrettably, Audrey Stone suffered a fractured right elbow, three broken ribs, a fractured ankle, and a cut on her head; she is being treated at Danbury Hospital, Danbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, Figo, 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 Figo upon the occasion of his 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 Audrey Stone.