

2015-J4653

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Boyce Coleman posthumously 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 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 took prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, helped others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Boyce Coleman posthumously 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, Forty-three-year-old Boyce "Scoop" Coleman was attending a community event at the park at the Yonkers Pier on Sunday, September 7, 2014, when he heard that a five-year-old boy was struggling in the water; and

WHEREAS, Without thoughts of his own safety, Boyce Coleman climbed over a fence along the bank, descended to the level of the water, and bravely entered the swift-moving river; he quickly swam to the boy, grasped him, and attempted to return to the bank with him against a swift tidal current; and

WHEREAS, Other bystanders also entered the cold water to aid in the

rescue attempt, including a young woman who swam out to the struggling pair; she shouted for Boyce Coleman to pass her the boy and wrapped an arm around the boy's chest, and used her free arm to swim toward the bank; and

WHEREAS, Although the current carried them farther up the river, the young woman was able to reach the shore where she and the boy were helped out of the water; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the initial rescuer, Boyce Coleman succumbed to the raging river; and

WHEREAS, This selfless hero will long be remembered by many for his caring concern as well as prompt and appropriate action in an emergency situation, nobly sacrificing his own life to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Known for his bigger than life personality, tremendous generosity, and warm heart, family and friends alike were blessed many times over by his giving spirit; and

WHEREAS, A loving father, Boyce Coleman enjoyed spending time with his two treasured daughters and his large family; an avid sports fan, he loved to cook and indulged in the finer luxuries of life; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous efforts, Boyce Coleman was the recipient of the Carnegie Medal Award, which recognizes those exceptional individuals who risk their lives saving or attempting to save others; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by Boyce Coleman, Sr., Boyce Coleman is survived by his mother, Anna McGee (John); his father, Louis Jordan; his two daughters, Tiara and Taylor (Shantel), two brothers, Michael (Missy) and Romeo Miller; two sisters, Latoya (Ondre) and Tammy Coleman; his grandmother, Victoria; four nieces, Tiffany, Kortnie, Cheyenne and Kayla; four nephews, Ondre, Jordan, Vincent, and Michael (Man-Man); great neph-

ew Shawn Coleman; two great nieces, Jada and Kennadi; as well as a multitude of uncles, aunts, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Boyce Coleman, 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 responded when others were in need of help; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Boyce Coleman posthumously 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 the family of Boyce Coleman.