

## 2015-K1415

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Niagara County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Tortorella upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Medal of Valor

WHEREAS, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our valiant officers who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Niagara County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Tortorella upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Medal of Valor; this momentous occasion was celebrated on Monday, May 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Valor, the nation's highest honor for public safety officers, is awarded annually by the President of the United States to law enforcement officers and firefighters who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Joe Tortorella, a 10-year veteran of the Niagara County Sheriff's Department, has been assigned to exclusively patrol the Wheatfield area since 2009, and has displayed professionalism and dedication to duty throughout his illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, On Friday, April 15, 2016, Deputy Joe Tortorella responded to a 911 call for assistance at a home on Errick Road; and

WHEREAS, As Deputy Joe Tortorella approached the house, the suspect, who had already shot his parents, opened a door and then slammed it shut

before coming out of the house through another door into the driveway and firing a handgun at the deputy, who returned fire while taking cover behind a nearby tree; and

WHEREAS, One of the suspects' shots struck Deputy Joe Tortorella's protective vest, which has since been credited with saving his life; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, 43-year-old Deputy Joe Tortorella's quick action to radio in a request for the lockdown at nearby Errick Road Elementary School demonstrated his ability to think clearly in a dangerous situation and protect innocent lives; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, and their three children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Throughout an extraordinary career in law enforcement, Deputy Joe Tortorella truly exemplifies courage, honor, bravery and selflessness; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Deputy Joe Tortorella has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those dedicated police officers who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy and due full praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Joe Tortorella, 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 public servants across the community of the State of New York who respond when others are in need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Niagara County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Tortorella upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Medal of Valor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Niagara County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Tortorella.