

2015-K1477

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Suffolk County Police Officer Mark Collins upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Police Conference of New York Medal of Valor

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Suffolk County Police Officer Mark Collins upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Police Conference of New York Medal of Valor; and

WHEREAS, The Police Conference of New York Medal of Valor is awarded for acts of outstanding personal bravery and valor intelligently performed in the line of duty at imminent personal hazard to life under circumstances evincing a disregard of personal consequences; and WHEREAS, On March 11, 2015, Suffolk County Police Officer Mark Collins was assigned to the Second Precinct gang unit; he and two of his partners were on patrol in an unmarked vehicle checking known gang locations; and

WHEREAS, At 11:30 P.M. after observing a car speeding and driving erratically, Officer Mark Collins and his two partners conducted a traffic stop and identified three of the four occupants as known gang members; and

WHEREAS, During the car stop, one of the occupants fled on foot and was immediately pursued by Officer Mark Collins who was able to overtake him; a violent confrontation ensued with Officer Mark Collins deploying his taser which had no effect on the individual; and

WHEREAS, Officer Mark Collins then engaged in hand-to-hand combat; during the fight, the gang member produced a handgun and fired four rounds at point blank range; Officer Collins was struck twice, once in his neck and once in his hip area; and

WHEREAS, Seriously wounded and temporarily unable to use his right arm and leg, Officer Mark Collins was unable to get to his service weapon or otherwise stop the suspect who was out of gun fire; the suspect fled; and

WHEREAS, Although shot, bleeding and paralyzed, Officer Mark Collins was able to call for help; upon the arrival of other officers, he advised them who had shot him and, subsequently, instructed them how to best treat his wounds; and

WHEREAS, A Suffolk County Police helicopter airlifted Officer Mark Collins to Stony Brook University Hospital; and

WHEREAS, The suspect was located by a K-9 unit, and was placed into custody within one hour of the incident; and

WHEREAS, After a period of rehabilitation, Officer Mark Collins returned to work and is currently assigned to the emergency services section; his bravery and fortitude in the face of death allowed a violent, recidivist felon to be taken off the street; the perpetrator is currently serving 55 years to life in prison; and

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

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Kristin, and his daughter, Kara, both of whom feel privileged to be in his life, and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Officer Mark Collins' distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor Suffolk County Police Officer Mark Collins upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Police Conference of New York Medal of Valor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Officer Mark Collins.