

## 2017-J4860

Senate Resolution No. 4860

BY: Senator SERINO

COMMENDING Brian Geary 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 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 commend Brian Geary 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, Early in the morning on Thursday, April 19, 2018, a woman driving south on the Taconic Parkway crashed into a rocky ledge and the vehicle rolled onto its side near Exit 14 in Yorktown, New York; and

WHEREAS, Fortunately, Brian Geary was driving to his job with Metro-North Railroad on that dark and chilly morning, when, out of the corner of his eye, he saw orange flames coming from the engine of a rolled over car; and

WHEREAS, Brian Geary immediately pulled his car over to the side of the road and called 911; he then went over to the car with a flashlight and saw a woman wedged diagonally in the front of the car; he recognized she was unresponsive when she did not answer his calls; and

WHEREAS, After realizing the doors of her vehicle were locked, Brian Geary ran back to his car and retrieved the bat that he used when playing for the Dutchess County Men's Hardball League; as he began to hit the windshield with the bat, two other drivers stopped to help; and

WHEREAS, After several swings, the windshield began to crack and Brian Geary began to punch holes into the sides of the windshield with the bat so he could pull it off the vehicle; once he removed the windshield, he pulled the woman out of the burning vehicle, and with the help of a passerby, he carried her to safety on the side of the road just as her vehicle became engulfed in flames; and

WHEREAS, The woman was coming in and out of consciousness, and Brian Geary comforted her as they waited for first responders; shortly thereafter, Yorktown Heights firefighters arrived and extinguished the

flames, while the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps tended to the woman and rushed her to Westchester Medical Center with serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, Praised for his swift actions, Brian Geary demonstrated his true character and genuine 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; and

WHEREAS, Justly recognized as a hero, Brian Geary richly merits the admiration of this Legislative Body and his community for his consummate courage and heroic actions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Brian Geary 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 Brian Geary.