

2017-K1227

Assembly Resolution No. 1227

BY: M. of A. Barclay

HONORING Firefighter/Medic Sean O'Gorman in recognition of his prompt and heroic actions saving three girls from a rip current off the coast of North Carolina

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 and property 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 Firefighter/Medic Sean O'Gorman in recognition of his prompt and heroic actions saving three girls from a rip current off the coast of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2018, Sean O'Gorman, who serves as a firefighter with the Oswego Fire Department, was vacationing with his family on North Carolina's Emerald Isle and spending the day at the beach; and

WHEREAS, While there, Sean O'Gorman spotted a pair of girls, who are sisters, on boogie boards, struggling to swim ashore and calling for

help; and

WHEREAS, Upon hearing their cries for assistance, their older sister rushed into the water to come to their aid, eventually becoming stuck herself in the rip current; and

WHEREAS, Meanwhile, the mother of the girls called 911 and their father prepared to enter the water and rescue them; however, once the father started out toward them, Sean O'Gorman stopped him, and began to swim out to the three girls; and

WHEREAS, The oldest of the three girls, who swam out to help, was able to reach the shore on her own, while the other two held on to Sean O'Gorman's feet and were pulled back to safety; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after the group was back on shore, local emergency responders arrived, demonstrating how critical Sean O'Gorman's quick action and thinking were to saving the lives of the young women; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Oswego Fire Department since 2000, Sean O'Gorman recently completed a four-day swift water rescue course, which, along with his previous training and experience, enabled him to successfully complete the water rescue; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his heavy involvement with fire department activities, Sean O'Gorman is a past board member of the Oswego YMCA, a member of the Oswego Elks, a board member and swim course director for Tri-Oswego, a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a Halloween

Happenings Organizer, as well as a participant in several youth activities in Oswego; and

WHEREAS, Proud of his heroic actions are Sean O'Gorman's family, his fellow firefighters at the City of Oswego Fire Department, and the Oswego community; and

WHEREAS, Sean O'Gorman, in his spontaneous and heroic act, has so aptly demonstrated his character and compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his action, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without thought of danger or reward when others are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Firefighter/Medic Sean O'Gorman in recognition of his prompt and heroic actions saving three girls from a rip current off the coast of North Carolina, noting the significance of his immediate and unconditional response to come to the aid of another in a life-threatening situation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sean O'Gorman.