

2023-J443

Senate Resolution No. 443

BY: Senator WEBER

HONORING heart transplant recipient Roxanne Watson for her ceaseless dedication as a champion and advocate for organ donation upon the milestone of personally adding over 13,000 names to the National Organ Donor Registry by herself

WHEREAS, The unity of our State and Nation is built upon the compassion of individuals such as Roxanne Watson who uphold the values of community life and who, through their great actions, epitomize the best of humanity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor heart transplant recipient Roxanne Watson for her ceaseless dedication as a champion and advocate for organ donation upon the milestone of personally adding over 13,000 names to the National Organ Donor Registry by herself; and

WHEREAS, Since receiving a new heart in 2010, Roxanne Watson has been on a mission to educate people about the life-saving value of organ donation; and

WHEREAS, Through her tireless work with New York's Campaign 4 Life and Donate Life NY, Roxanne Watson has personally signed up 13,000 potential donors, which is believed to be a world record; and

WHEREAS, Roxanne Watson's efforts have led Rockland County to the top position in the state for the number of organ donor sign-ups; this extraordinarily selfless woman was also selected as one of six winners among more than 3,500 entries in a worldwide competition on life-changing goals for her efforts to create a global organ donor foundation; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Roxanne Watson, then 51, suffered a heart attack and was told she would need a transplant; her lifesaving operation took place July 16, 2010, at Montefiore Medical Center; her donor, 23-year-old Michael Bovill, was a Coast Guard serviceman who was returning to base on his motorcycle when he was struck by a truck on the George Washington Bridge on July 11, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Michael Bovill, a true American hero who served his country proudly and saved five lives, continues to serve as Roxanne Watson's inspiration; she is steadfast in her determination to encourage as many people as possible to sign a donor card, especially minority populations who statistically need the most organs; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Roxanne Watson won a Folio: Eddie Award for, "What a Silent Heart Attack Sounds Like," an article published in the American Heart Association's Heart Insight magazine; the following year she was featured in a national television advertising campaign and the home-improvement show, "George to the Rescue"; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2018, she was honored by the New York State Senate as the Woman of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Nanuet, New York, Roxanne Watson earned an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts: Humanities and Social Sciences

in 1987, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Columbia University in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Roxanne Watson has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay just homage to a woman of indomitable faith and dedication whose public service and countless accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor heart transplant recipient Roxanne Watson for her ceaseless dedication as a champion and advocate for organ donation upon the milestone of personally adding over 13,000 names to the National Organ Donor Registry by herself; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Roxanne Watson.