family-owned store into a heap of broken bricks, twisted metal, and shattered glass; Whereas all those who responded to the scene served without reservation and with their personal safety on the line; Whereas ill-timed and dangerous fires that firefighters were injured by the blaze, including firefighters Joseph Vosilla and Brendan Manning who were severely injured; Whereas John J. Downing of Ladder Company 163, an 11-year veteran of the department and resident of Port Jefferson Station, and a husband and father of 3, lost his life in the fire; Whereas Brian Fahey of Rescue Company 4, a 14-year veteran of the department and resident of East Rockaway, and a husband and father of 3, lost his life in the fire; and Whereas Harry Ford of Rescue Company 4, a 27-year veteran of the department from Long Beach, and a husband and father of 3, lost his life in the fire, now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) honors John J. Downing, Brian Fahey, and Harry Ford, who lost their lives in the course of duty as firefighters, and recognizes them for their bravery and sacrifice; and
(2) extends its deepest sympathies to the families of these 3 brave heroes; and
(3) pledges its support and to continue to work on behalf of all of the Nation's firefighters who risk their lives every day to ensure the safety of all Americans.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP SHOULD BE ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

Ms. SNOWE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 56

Whereas the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit, commonly known as the Purple Heart, is the oldest military decoration in the world in present usage; Whereas the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded in conflict with an enemy force or while held by an enemy force as a prisoner of war, and posthumously to the next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who are killed in conflict with an enemy force or who die of a wound received in conflict with an enemy force; Whereas the Purple Heart was established on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington issued an order establishing the Honorary Badge of Distinction, otherwise known as the Badge of Military Merit or the Decoration of the Purple Heart; Whereas the award of the Purple Heart ceased with the end of the Revolutionary War, but was revived out of respect for the memory and military achievements of George Washington in 1932, the year marking the 200th anniversary of his birth; and Whereas the issuance of a postage stamp commemorating the members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart is a fitting tribute both to those members and to the memory of George Washington: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—
(1) the United States Postal Service should issue a postage stamp commemorating the members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart; and
(2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued not later than 1 year after the adoption of this resolution.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President. I rise today to submit a concurrent resolution to express the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued by the United States Postal Service honoring the members of the Armed Forces that have been awarded the Purple Heart.
The Purple Heart, our nation's oldest military decoration, was originated by General George Washington in 1782 to recognize "instances of unusual gallantry..." Reflected thereon is the Badge of Military Merit, the decoration was awarded only three times during the Revolutionary War.
Following the war, the general order authorizing the “Badge” was misfiled for over 150 years until the War Department reactivated the decoration in 1932. The Army’s then Adjutant General, Douglas MacArthur, succeeded in having the medal re-instituted in its modern form—to recognize the sacrifice our service members make when they go into harm’s way.
Both literally and figuratively, the Purple Heart is the world’s most costly decoration. However, the 19 separate steps necessary to make the medal pale in comparison to the actions and heroics that so often lead to its award. The Department of Defense does not track the number of Purple Hearts awarded, but we do know that just over 500,000 of the veterans and military personnel that have received the medal are living. And we also know that every single recipient served this country in one form or another; a good number of the awardees even made the ultimate sacrifice—giving their lives for the liberty and freedoms that we all enjoy and often take for granted.
I am sure you will agree that these sacrifices deserve our respect and remembrance. This resolution, to express the sense of the Congress that a postage stamp honoring Purple Heart recipients should be issued by the U.S. Postal Service, is a fitting place to start. I urge my colleagues to support this effort to recognize those brave service members.