

2011-J4485

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Shawanda Weems for her many years of dedicated service to the student of the Bronx community

WHEREAS, A great state is only as great as those individuals who perform exemplary service on behalf of their community, whether through unique achievement in professional or other endeavors, or simply through a lifetime of good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Shawanda Weems for exemplary service to the community and the State upon the occasion of her success and work on leadership in instituting youth physical fitness programs at Public Middle School 15 in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, Shawanda Weems, in collaboration with the Youth and Community Division of New York Road Runners, established the Young Runners Program at Public Middle School 15 eight years ago when she was diagnosed with diabetes; and

WHEREAS, The Young Runners Program is an afterschool track team comprised of middle school students, "The Jaguars", who will participate for the second straight summer in the International Children's Games in Athens, Greece; and

WHEREAS, Five years ago, Shawanda Weems started the "Mighty Millers," an afterschool component of the Young Runners for grades K-4; she began these programs to teach children how to make healthy choices early in their lives, so they will not face health problems in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, These programs have provided students with an alternative to the school's basketball teams, which were the only organized athletic activity; and

WHEREAS, Shawanda Weems has contributed endless hours and dedication to the Young Runners Program, working with her students before, after and during the school day to implement physical activity and goal-setting into the culture of Public Middle School 15; and

WHEREAS, An English teacher of 14 years, Shawanda Weems believes physical activity and academic excellence go hand-in-hand; she has witnessed the positive effect of both on her students' lives; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individ-

uals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention
it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those individuals for
the edification and emulation of others; and

WHEREAS, Such service, which is truly the Lifeblood of the Community
and the State of New York, so often goes unrecognized and unheralded;
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to
honor Shawanda Weems for her many years of dedicated service to the
students of the Bronx community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be trans-
mitted to Shawanda Weems.