

2009-J4456

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the Townsend Harris High School "We the People" Team upon the occasion of earning Second Place in the 2010 New York State "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" Competition

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend young people who, by achieving outstanding success in an educational competition, inspire and bring pride to themselves and to their school, their community, and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the Townsend Harris High School "We the People" Team upon the occasion of earning Second Place in the New York State "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" Competition in Albany on March 5 and 6, 2010 and to commend them for their accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, Each year schools from across the country participate in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and designed to promote civic competence and responsibility among the nation's elementary and secondary students; since the inception of the program in 1987, more than 28 million students and 90 thousand educators have participated in its instructional program and over 1,200 students participate in the national competition each year; and

WHEREAS, Students who participate in the competition must learn all of the intricacies involved in the creation and application of the U.S. Constitution, beginning with the Constitution's foundation in Enlightenment thinking and Colonial history and extending to the ways in which all of its Articles and Amendments have historically been and currently are implemented by the executive, legislative and judicial branches of

both national and state governments; and

WHEREAS, Each team is comprised of six units, each focusing on a particular area of Constitutional interest, from the philosophical underpinnings and Constitutional Convention to modern day implications; in preparing themselves for the competition's culminating activity, a simulated congressional hearing, the students must become experts on the text of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, United States history, Supreme Court decisions, and current world events to meet the demands of the program and each tier of competition; and

WHEREAS, Located in Flushing, Queens, all 33 of the Townsend Harris High School students on the 2009-2010 "We the People" Team are seniors; for several months they devoted many hours preparing for the regional and state level competitions; and

WHEREAS, The Townsend Harris High School "We the People" Team, ably guided by AP Government teacher Dr. Linda Steinmann includes Elisa Atamian, Brandon Baksh, Shanice Bedassie, Jehanne Belange, Rahul Bhasin, Tejal Desai, (Eva) Fu-Yun Fan, Alexei Furs, Kellie Gergoudis, Prabhjot Grewal, Sujata Gupta, Jocelyn Hernandez, Ashraf Hussain, Ranbir Kler, Vincent Lai, Joanne Lee, Ivan Lesiv, Hauen Lue, Miranda Myers, Melanie Ngo, Vassiliki Papagermanos, Eilin Perez, Julia Pojawis, Yena Purmasir, Kristina Rodulfo, Jane Selegian, Joseph Spitaleri, Rebecca Suzuki, Kin Yam Tsoi, Bobby Wanees, Christopher Wang, Jerry Yang, and Amy Yuan; and WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, these scholars now stand honorably, with just pride in their achievement and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by their teachers and parents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Townsend Harris High School "We the People" Team upon the occasion of earning Second Place in the 2010 New York State "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" Competition and to offer them

best wishes for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Townsend Harris High School "We the People" Team, AP Government teacher Dr. Linda Steinmann, and Townsend Harris High School Principal Kenneth Bonamo.