

## 2011-J668

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sara-Elizabeth Clark upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mid Hudson Valley Chapter

WHEREAS, The youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation, are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sara-Elizabeth Clark upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mid Hudson Valley Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Sara-Elizabeth Clark is an outstanding young girl who has dedicated her time to breaking the stigma of epilepsy, and consequently has been recognized for her efforts by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mid Hudson Valley Chapter; and

WHEREAS, The Association of Fundraising Professionals is an organization that empowers individuals to help make a difference through philanthropy and provides cost-effective education, networking and professional resources close to home; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy affects two percent of the population and approximately one in 50 children; Sara-Elizabeth Clark was diagnosed with Idiopathic Benign Childhood Epilepsy when she was 16 months old, and growing up she always felt as if she was treated differently by her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, When she was 10 years old, Sara-Elizabeth Clark decided to support others suffering with epilepsy and similar disorders and to help dispel the fear and misconceptions people have, and the stigma associated with them; at the same time, Sara began organizing the "Sara's Annual Walk for Epilepsy" by working with local agencies that serve people with epilepsy and SUNY New Paltz to organize and promote the event; the five walks Sara has organized have collectively raised a significant amount, all of which is used to support those with epilepsy;

and

WHEREAS, Through Sara-Elizabeth Clark's walk, she is able to not only raise funds for epilepsy, but promote awareness and education in order to break the stigma that surrounds epilepsy; Sara believes her disorder will not define her identity as a person; she has spoken to children from all over the country, has participated in regional print and television ads, and is the subject of the book, BEING SARA, by local author Chris Passudetti; and

WHEREAS, Sara-Elizabeth Clark has exhibited tireless enthusiasm within her community by raising funds and awareness about epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when young people of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sara-Elizabeth Clark upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mid Hudson Valley Chapter; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sara-Elizabeth Clark, 23 Cooks Lane, Gardiner, New York 12525.