

2011-J1081

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Kevin and Betsy Carswell upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Good Neighbor Award by Family Services on April 7, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Kevin and Betsy Carswell upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Good Neighbor Award by Family Services to be celebrated at its 2011 Family of the Year Awards Dinner to be held on Thursday, April 7, 2011, at The Grandview, Poughkeepsie, New York; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Carswell already had a busy career and a growing family that demanded time and attention when his employer, IBM, first asked him to oversee the Charitable Contribution Campaign; at the time he was unaware of how it would change his life as well as his family's life; and

WHEREAS, When Kevin Carswell joined the IBM community work project donating time and muscle to a small renovation job, he fell in love with the work; during his first year he dedicated his time to nine community projects; he enjoyed the people, the work, and the new skills he learned from talented craftsmen; since then, he has worked on projects such as the ramp at the Partnership Center for nonprofits throughout the Hudson Valley Region; and

WHEREAS, Betsy Carswell often volunteered as class mother, event organizer, graphic designer, and all-around-go-to-person, almost full-time, at their children's schools; a lover of the outdoors, particularly birds, she enjoyed volunteering for the Audubon Society and other environmental groups and it soon became central to their family life; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Carswell was approached by the New York Blood Center to organize a blood drive and as the Hudson Valley Education Chair, he

enlisted schools and other groups to organize blood drives and education sessions; he especially loves his work with students, who are responsible for donating approximately 20 percent of the blood supply; all members of the Carswell family donate either blood or platelets as well as their time working at the blood drives; and

WHEREAS, Each of the Carswell children have carved out projects that reflect their individual personalities and passions; and

WHEREAS, Megan Carswell, Kevin and Betsy's youngest child, organized a summer blood drive for students; her dedicated efforts are not only kind and compassionate but literally saving lives; in addition, she started a tutoring project for fifth graders through Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and will serve as its president next year; and

WHEREAS, When their middle child, Caroline Carswell, learned about the child soldiers of Uganda, she was deeply touched and moved to action; she founded a chapter of Invisible Children Schools for Schools, in which students share the story of these abducted youth and raise funds to rebuild their schools; and

WHEREAS, Dan Carswell, their oldest child, dedicated himself to helping others by volunteering his time working with Special Olympics while away at school in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, For Betsy and Kevin Carswell, volunteering reinforces their family value system; through volunteer work their children have learned the challenges others face; when the Carswell's adopted a family for the

holidays both their daughters carefully considered what a family with so much less than their own would need and want; and

WHEREAS, The thread that runs through this family's volunteer work is their penchant to fill gaps wherever leadership is needed; they not only do the work, but also look around for the work that needs to be done; the members of the Carswell family have shown the best characteristics of what a good neighbor should be, making them worthy of this auspicious award; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor Kevin and Betsy Carswell upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Good Neighbor Award from Family Services on April 7, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kevin and Betsy Carswell.