

2011-K768

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Eleanor and Robert Holmes and family upon the occasion of their designation by the Family Nurturing Center of Central New York as its 2011 Family of the Year

WHEREAS, From time to time, this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals who dedicate themselves to raising their families and to enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth and recognizes them as truly deserving of the highest praise and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Eleanor and Robert Holmes and family upon the occasion of their designation by the Family Nurturing Center of Central New York as its 2011 Family of the Year; and

WHEREAS, The Family of the Year Award is given to publicly honor families from Oneida and Herkimer counties that demonstrate nurturing attitudes and behaviors in their relationships, and to educate the community about the importance of nurturing interactions in families, and serve as outstanding examples of community commitment and involvement in Central New York; and

WHEREAS, The Family Nurturing Center of Utica, New York was founded in 1988 to provide parenting education and family support programs; it offers services which empower parents and children to strengthen their relationships and to meet individual and family needs; it also provides training for individuals who work with families, with the goals of preventing child abuse and of building nurturing families; and

WHEREAS, For the past 23 years, the Family Nurturing Center of Central New York in Utica has fostered an awareness of the importance of nurturing family relationships by honoring families who exemplify nurturing attitudes and behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor and Robert Holmes and family, of Bridgewater, New York, have fittingly been selected as the Center's 2011 Family of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Recently, as the warm spring air was filled with the metallic

clang of an aluminum bat connecting with a ball, the smell of hot dogs cooking in the concession stand, and the fine cloud of dust kicked up by a runner sliding into home, Eleanor Holmes sat with her mother on the sidelines of the Little League game, cheering on her great-grandsons, Robert and Alphonso; and

WHEREAS, Late in the game, both boys had solid hits and scored runs and Eleanor proudly announced that they were great hitters; and

WHEREAS, Her husband, Robert "Bobby" Holmes, cheered on the boys from the family's minivan and, after they lost the game, he went over to joke with the boys and their teammates, trying to cheer them up; and

WHEREAS, The scene was a page torn from the American dream, lazy late spring evenings at the ball park, but it wasn't always this way for the Holmes boys: Eric, 15; Derick, 13; Robert, 11; Pernell, 10; and Alphonso, 9; and

WHEREAS, Just five years ago, on September 15, 2006, the boys' fate lay in the hands of a Family Court judge who had declared their home situation unsuitable; and

WHEREAS, Then Bobby and Eleanor Holmes, the boys' great-grandparents, stepped up, giving the boys the first stable father figure they'd ever known and raising them in a loving, nurturing home where they have thrived; and

WHEREAS, The Eleanor and Robert Holmes family is now a shining example of supportive parents; Eleanor, 69, and Robert, 75, have chosen to live

a positive life and to provide a loving environment for their great-grandchildren and have inspired their community and all that know them; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Eleanor and Robert Holmes and family upon the occasion of their designation by the Family Nurturing Center of Central New York as its 2011 Family of the Year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Eleanor and Robert Holmes and family.