

## 2011-J3863

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Abilities! upon the occasion of its 46th Annual Celebrity Sports Night on May 17, 2012

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities of New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry and have made strong contributions to the disability community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Abilities! upon the occasion of its 46th Annual Celebrity Sports Night to be held at Abilities! on Thursday, May 17, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Abilities!, located in Albertson, New York is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering children and adults with disabilities to be active, independent, and self-sufficient participants of society; and

WHEREAS, Through education, training, technology, research, leadership and example, Abilities! seeks to provide the highest quality services and to influence state and national attitudes, policies and legislation in ways which will provide the greatest benefit for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Abilities!, originally Abilities, Inc., formerly known as the National Center for Disability Services (NCDS) began in a garage in West Hempstead, New York in 1952 and successfully demonstrated that people with disabilities could be productive contributors to society; today, Abilities! is a significant provider of community-based services to thousands of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, Dr. Viscardi moved Abilities, Inc. to a larger facility, its current home in Albertson, New York, and expanded the National Center for Disability Services to include vocational training and job placement for all people with disabilities and, in 1962, he established an accredited, independent school for children with severe physical disabilities, now known as the Henry Viscardi School (HVS); and

WHEREAS, Held annually, Abilities! Celebrity Sports Night is one of the premier events on Long Island which helps to greatly enrich the lives of children and adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The 46th Annual Celebrity Sports Night will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 and will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Abilities! and the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Abilities! Founder, Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, The Co-Chairs of this year's Celebrity Sports Night are Thomas J. Fanning, Sr., Co-Managing Member of Heritage Strategies LLC, and James R. Fitzgerald, also a Co-Managing Member of Heritage Strategies LLC; and

WHEREAS, Howard P. Milstein, Chairman of New York Private Bank & Trust and Managing Partner of Milstein Properties, will be recognized at the event as Abilities! Distinguished Honoree; and

WHEREAS, Abilities! 46th Annual Celebrity Sports Night will, in addition, proudly feature celebrities Jack Nicklaus, Joe Namath, and Robert David Hall; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1952 by Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., Abilities!, now ably led by President and Chief Executive Officer John D. Kemp, has evolved into one of the world's foremost facilities for educating and training people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The dedication, commitment, and significant accomplishments of Abilities! and all those who have been associated with it over the

years truly merit the recognition of this Legislative Body and the appreciation of all those who have benefited from its services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and commend Abilities! upon the occasion of its 46th Annual Celebrity Sports Night on May 17, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Abilities! and to the honorees of the evening, Howard P. Milstein, Jack Nicklaus, Joe Namath, and Robert David Hall.