

2011-K1223

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 10th Anniversary of ELMY's Special Services on May 10, 2012

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 organizations and 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 commemorate the 10th Anniversary of ELMY's Special Services, to be celebrated on Thursday, May 10, 2012; and

WHEREAS, The seeds for ELMY's Special Services were planted in 2001, when Ray Knights, a compliance officer for a social service agency offered to help a neighbor find regular and reliable home care in central Brooklyn for her developmentally disabled child; and

WHEREAS, As word spread through the community, more and more families turned to Ray Knights for help; within a year, Ray Knights and a diverse and dedicated group of volunteers were providing respite and other assistance for dozens of families; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Ray Knights formally opened ELMY's Special Services; and

WHEREAS, The goal of ELMY's Special Services is to serve and support individuals and families with mental and/or developmental disabilities, and to offer case management, day programs, residential service options, evaluation and other valuable services to the community; and

WHEREAS, Working out of an office in Ray Knights' home and with his team of volunteers turned employees, ELMY's Special Services began to expand both staff and services to a growing number of families well beyond the Brooklyn community; and

WHEREAS, Today, with its more than 150 employees, ELMY's Special Services provides educational, residential, respite and other support and services for more than 700 developmentally disabled children, adults and their families in locations throughout the five boroughs and beyond;

and

WHEREAS, Support and services provided by ELMY's staff of educators, professionals and paraprofessionals include: weekly respite services for families and caregivers; overnight respite offered outside the home; holiday respite services providing day trips and other activities; after school programs; and residential services providing group home and semi-independent living residences; and

WHEREAS, As ELMY's Special Services celebrates its first 10 years of service it remains committed to its founding principle that every person regardless of his or her race, handicap or developmental level should be treated with dignity; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations 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 commemorate the 10th Anniversary of ELMY's Special Services on May 10, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to ELMY's Special Services.