

2011-J4542

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Alexandra Francis upon the occasion of receiving the distinguished Girl Scout Gold Award, the most prestigious of Girl Scouting honors

WHEREAS, Alexandra Francis, through her diligence and rigorous efforts, has achieved Scouting's highest and most prestigious honor, the Girl Scout Gold Award; the Girl Scout Gold ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 9, 2012, at the Miller Place Fire Department in Miller Place, New York; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Ernie and Yvonne Francis, Alexandra Francis is a member of Girl Scouts of America Troop 3084 in Miller Place; and

WHEREAS, America has achieved her greatest heights of glory through the dedication, determination and tireless efforts of the outstanding citizens of this Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is only with the continued diligence and devotion of our youth, tomorrow's leaders, that America will maintain her glory; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts of America and its members are dedicated to the development of character and leadership in the youth of this Nation; and

WHEREAS, Since 1980, Senior Girl Scouts have capped their years of achievement in Girl Scouting with the Girl Scout Gold Award; and

WHEREAS, In order to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, a girl must fulfill five requirements; chief among them is the design and completion of a Gold Award Project; this project must build upon the interests of the girl, provide a service to the community, and be of lasting benefit; and

WHEREAS, For her Gold Award project, Alexandra Francis, working with Kirsten Nicholas, set up what they called the Awareness and Acceptance Sanctuary, a picnic area at Mount Sinai Heritage Park which includes a cemented bench with a plaque reading: "Acceptance is key in life because everyone is different. Reach out and be a friend, it's the greatest gift you can give someone."; and

WHEREAS, To help acquire funds to build this sanctuary, Alex and Kirsten took part in the Mount Sinai Annual Craft Fair; they had their own table full of photo frames, bracelets, flower pots, and other craft

items they had hand-decorated in accordance with the theme of their project; and

WHEREAS, They also distributed among the people who attended the craft fair, who helped set up the picnic area, and who made a purchase at their cookie booth brochures created by Alex and Kirsten, describing the purpose of their project and exactly what developmental disabilities are; and

WHEREAS, The brochures also explained that awareness and acceptance of developmental disabilities such as autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and down syndrome are challenging because of the escalating rate of young people acquiring these disabilities and that to accept these special people as they are is challenging in itself; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding young woman has been involved in Scouting for years, has lived up to Scouting's ideals and has attained all of the necessary achievements for the Girl Scout Gold Award; and

WHEREAS, Alexandra Francis is a credit to her family, her school, her community, her State and her Nation, and no doubt her future will be filled with accomplishments of equal importance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations, in recognition of the significance of this meritorious achievement, to congratulate and honor Alexandra Francis upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of a Girl Scout Gold Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alexandra Francis.