

2013-J697

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Cory Nichols, of Oceanside, upon the occasion of his designation as a State Honoree in the 18th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, honoring the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Cory Nichols has distinguished himself as a young man of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of community service, purposefulness of life, and sense of responsibility rarely achieved in youthful years; and

WHEREAS, Cory Nichols, 12, of Oceanside, New York, and a Seventh Grader at Oceanside Middle School, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by being named a 2013 Prudential Spirit of Community State Honoree; he was nominated for this high honor by his school; and

WHEREAS, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, As one of only two New York State Honorees, Cory Nichols will receive a monetary award, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D.C. in early May 2013, where he will join the State Honorees from the other states and the District of Columbia for four days of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, Cory Nichols committed himself to donating \$100 worth of food to a local food pantry each month for an entire year and, so far, is greatly exceeding his goal; Cory knew he had to help feed the hungry after watching an HBO documentary about the hard times many people on Long Island, where he lives, were experiencing; and

WHEREAS, After seeing the documentary, he realized that people all around him, people he was sure he went to school with, were suffering

with hunger; after speaking with his parents, Cory decided he would name his campaign "C the difference: Cory Cares"; and

WHEREAS, Cory Nichols first talked to the director of the local food pantry about its needs and determined that he could make a significant difference if he could donate \$100 worth of food on a monthly basis; he and his mother then spoke to a supermarket manager who generously agreed to give Cory a 10 percent discount; and

WHEREAS, Cory Nichols then got to work soliciting monetary donations through social media and emails to family, friends and neighbors; after he receives a contribution, Cory sends each donor a thank you note, along with a bracelet imprinted with the name of his project; and

WHEREAS, Every month, he contacts the food pantry to find out its specific needs, carefully peruses grocery store shelves for bargains, delivers bags of food to the pantry and even stocks the shelves himself; "It is so rewarding," he says, "seeing the shelves go from empty to not so empty"; and

WHEREAS, In just the first two months of his project, Cory Nichols raised \$3,000 for groceries, and is continuing his efforts to help feed his community's hungry; and

WHEREAS, The success of the State of New York, the strength of our communities, and the vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people such as Cory Nichols who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Cory Nichols, commending him for his outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community service and recognizing the value of his labors and the promise of his future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations with praise and pride to commend Cory Nichols for his achievements and to extend to him the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being, fully confident of his response to the challenges of a promising future and appreciative of the model he represents for all young people of the Empire State; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Cory Nichols.