

2015-J294

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John D. Kemp upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Dole Leadership Prize by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, John D. Kemp has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John D. Kemp upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Dole Leadership Prize by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas; he received this outstanding award at an event held at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics on Sunday, December 14, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Named after Senator Robert J. Dole, a wounded veteran and tireless advocate for disability rights, the Dole Leadership Prize is awarded annually to an individual or group whose public service leadership inspires others; and

WHEREAS, John D. Kemp is the first disability leader to receive the Dole Leadership Prize, which was personally selected by former Senator Robert J. Dole; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man is President/CEO of the Viscardi Center, a

network of non-profit organizations which provides a lifespan of services that educate, employ and empower children and adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Widely recognized as a disability rights statesman in America and throughout the world, John D. Kemp is renowned for his many achievements, both in the corporate and non-profit worlds; and

WHEREAS, As a person with a disability who uses four prostheses, John D. Kemp has inspired others to achieve the impossible through his unique combination of knowledge, experience, vision, personality, and persistence; and

WHEREAS, John D. Kemp has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, John D. Kemp has more than 50 years of direct experience in the disability movement; he has partnered with, worked for, and served as Board Member/Chair or CEO of several leading disability and non-profit organizations; in addition, he co-founded the American Association of People with Disabilities in 1995; and

WHEREAS, With a sense of civic responsibility, John D. Kemp has served on the Medicaid Commission, the U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, and the New York State READY Commission; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous accolades during his illustrious career, John D. Kemp received an honorary doctorate from Washburn University School of Law in 2003, and the Henry B. Betts Award for his outstanding leadership and service in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, John D. Kemp has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which John D. Kemp has displayed through-

out his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John D. Kemp upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Dole Leadership Prize from the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John D. Kemp.