

## 2015-J516

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Robert Esche upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Community Service Award by the North Utica Senior Citizens Community Center on November 1, 2014

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Robert Esche 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 Robert Esche upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Community Service Award by the North Utica Senior Citizens Community Center, to be celebrated at its 7th Annual Awards Dinner on Saturday, November 1, 2014, at Hart's Hill Inn, Whitesboro, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award is given annually to honor an individual who has dedicated their life to helping others, and to raise funds to enable the North Utica Senior Citizens Community Center to provide programs and services to people of all age groups; and

WHEREAS, Robert Esche is a former Professional Hockey Player and current Co-Owner of the Utica Comets, Garden Entertainment, and Aqua Vino Restaurants, as well as Founder of the Save of the Day Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Born January 22, 1978, in Whitesboro, New York, Robert Esche began his illustrious professional hockey career with the Phoenix Coyotes, and was then traded to the Philadelphia Flyers; in 2004, he claimed the starting goaltending position for the Flyers, and led them to the NHL Eastern Conference Finals; and

WHEREAS, Robert Esche represented the United States in the 1997 and

1998 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships and the IIHF World Championship in 2000, shutting out Russia, an accomplishment which represents one of his greatest moments in hockey; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he represented the United States Team in 2001, and received the starting nod at the 2004 World Cup of Hockey; he was named to the 2006 United States Men's Olympic Hockey Team in Turin, and played one game in the Olympic Tournament; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 2013, Robert Esche, along with his partner, brought an AHL team back to Utica; Comet fever began and caught on with a vengeance; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Robert Esche, Utica Comet tickets are a hot commodity, the auditorium is in its best shape ever, and local businesses are flourishing on hockey nights; and

WHEREAS, Robert Esche 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, Throughout the past decade, the Robert Esche Save of the Day Foundation has raised an extraordinary magnitude of funds for terminally ill children of the Mohawk Valley through fundraising events such as the Save of the Day golf outing, charity softball games, and galas; this exemplary organization proudly partners with the Utica Comets, and promotes a healthy and happy lifestyle for local youth; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his stellar career, Robert Esche has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades some of which include the 2002-2003 William M. Jennings Trophy, the 2002-2003 Yanick Dupre Memorial, the 2003-2004 Pelle Lindbergh Memorial, and the 2008 World Championships, Best Save Percentage; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Robert Esche has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife, Kelly, and

their two beautiful children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Robert Esche has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 honor Robert Esche upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Community Service Award by the North Utica Senior Citizens Community Center on November 1, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert Esche.