

2015-J769

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Patrick Quinn, a Yonkers native who is credited with creating the Ice Bucket Challenge

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of individuals who bring vital attention and awareness to important health issues which affect the lives of the citizens of our great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Patrick Quinn, a Yonkers native who is credited with creating the Ice Bucket Challenge; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Yonkers, New York, Westchester County, 31 year old Patrick Quinn is a graduate of Iona Prep School and Iona College, both in New Rochelle; always very active and athletic, he played basketball in high school and rugby in college; and

WHEREAS, On March 8, 2013, Patrick Quinn was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease which affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, To heighten awareness and raise money to help eradicate the disease, Patrick Quinn, along with one of his friends, created the Ice Bucket Challenge through social media; the challenge went viral in the summer of 2014, and received national attention from thousands of people including movie stars, professional athletes, and even former United States Presidents; and

WHEREAS, To participate in the Ice Bucket Challenge, individuals must pour a bucket of ice water over their head, and in turn, nominate a minimum of three others, via social media, to do the same; if the nomination is not met within 24 hours, a donation must be made to an ALS

organization; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the popularity of the challenge, people from across the country, in every imaginable setting, successfully raised awareness as well as donations for this incurable disease; the ALS Association reported it received \$62.5 million in donations from July 29 to August 23, 2014, compared to \$2.4 million during the same time period last year; these donations have come from existing donors, as well as 307,598 new donors; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the Ice Bucket Challenge, Patrick Quinn began his own ALS fundraiser, Quinn for the Win, which has raised more than \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, Since the inception of the Ice Bucket Challenge, Patrick Quinn has appeared on numerous media outlets including "New York One", "Entertainment Tonight" and "Good Morning America"; he has also been nominated for the auspicious 2014 TIME Person of the Year for his contributions in making the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge a global phenomenon; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Jennifer, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Patrick Quinn, a Yonkers native who is credited with creating the Ice Bucket Challenge; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Patrick Quinn.