

2015-J1535

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Bethlehem YMCA upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Bethlehem YMCA upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, Inc., to be celebrated at the Center's 21st Annual Dessert Spectacular on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at the Franklin Plaza Ballroom in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1987, the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities lead happy and fulfilling lives; rooted in a philosophy of self-determination, the Center offers many services, including advocacy, peer counseling, and facilitates access to housing and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Beacon Leadership Award is granted annually to those organizations, such as the Bethlehem YMCA, which have demonstrated their commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities; honorees have each in their own way helped make the community a more welcoming place for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Bethlehem YMCA focuses on youth development, healthy living and for social responsibility; they are committed to meeting the wellness needs of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization enthusiastically works to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to all their services, programs and initiatives, including enabling children to realize their potential, prepare teenagers for college, offer ways for families to have fun together, empower people to be healthier in spirit, mind and body, prepare people for employment, welcome and embrace newcomers and help foster a nationwide service ethic; and

WHEREAS, The Bethlehem YMCA includes disability awareness training as part of its new staff orientation; in addition, the Bethlehem YMCA strives to ensure the facility is free of architectural barriers that might hinder people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations 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 the Bethlehem YMCA upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Bethlehem YMCA.