

2015-J1556

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Joli Russo upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those New York State residents who give generously of themselves to their communities and who strive to improve the lives of others through caring and dedicated volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, Joli Russo of Howard Beach, Queens, is one such exceptional New York State resident who, at the young age of 11, has demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for contributing selflessly to a variety of volunteer efforts in her community; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Joli Russo upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service; and

WHEREAS, Joli Russo received this auspicious award in recognition of her unparalleled commitment, a tremendous distinction which recognizes those Americans who have volunteered 4,000 hours of their time on behalf of the needs of others; and

WHEREAS, Joli Russo has now amassed more than 4,200 hours of volunteer service, and is eager to continue contributing to the betterment of her community, State and Nation through the time she donates helping at food pantries; working at cancer research organizations; raising money for celiac disease awareness; aiding children with autism; collecting food and clothing for those in need; conducting drives to obtain Halloween costumes for children whose families cannot afford them, and pursuing other charitable endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Joli Russo, whose parents are both cancer survivors, is particularly interested in finding a cure for this debilitating disease;

she holds among her many aspirations the dream of one day becoming a doctor and helping to spare others and their families the pain and challenges of a cancer diagnosis; in 2014, she served as a Youth Ambassador for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Joli Russo, who is also considering a career as a broadcast journalist, is an accomplished and multi-talented young actress who has done voice-over work in commercials, has appeared in several episodes of the ABC television show "What Would You Do?" and was a featured extra in the movie "Annie" among other film opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Joli Russo has been very involved in the Miss America Pageant, and was crowned Miss New York Junior Pre-Teen in 2012 in the National American Miss competition, the largest pageant in the country for girls ages four through 18, and has continued to compete in various pageants and served as a "princess" to reigning Miss America Kira Kazantsev; and

WHEREAS, Joli Russo, through her many unique achievements and remarkably giving nature, is an inspirational role model for other young people as well as residents of all ages in the State of New York, and is to be congratulated for earning the very prestigious President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service after working her way up through the Bronze, Silver and Gold tiers of this honor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and recognize Joli Russo as a recipient of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service, and for her continuing efforts to improve the lives of others in her community, her State and her Nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joli Russo.