

2015-K407

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Anthony and Jeanette Senerchia, Pelham, New York natives who are 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 Anthony and Jeanette Senerchia, Pelham, New York natives who are credited with creating the Ice Bucket Challenge; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Pelham, New York, Westchester County, Anthony and Jeanette Senerchia were students at Pelham Memorial High School (PMHS); while a student, Anthony played football, wearing jersey No. 44; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, Anthony Senerchia, Jr. was one of the founding members of Pelham Youth Football; for 14 years, he coached youth football, inspiring his players to be the best they can be, both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, On October 25, 2013, Anthony Senerchia, Jr. was proudly recognized during the half-time of the PMHS Varsity football game for his many years of promoting youth football in his community, and for his positive attitude; today, students who are chosen as Player of the Week wear No. 44 to honor Anthony's legacy; and

WHEREAS, 11 years ago, Anthony Senerchia, Jr. 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, Anthony and Jeanette Senerchia 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 challenge 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 the previous year; these donations have come from existing donors, as well as 307,598 new donors; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the Ice Bucket Challenge, Anthony and Jeanette Senerchia began their own ALS fundraiser, the Anthony Senerchia, Jr. ALS Foundation, which has raised more than \$25,000 from its softball tournaments, raffles and auctions; 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 Anthony and Jeanette Senerchia, Pelham, New York natives who are credited with creating the Ice Bucket Challenge ; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Anthony and Jeanette Senerchia.