

2015-J1821

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Jack Bierwirth upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 40 distinguished years as an educator

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Jack Bierwirth upon the occasion of his retirement as an educator, after more than 40 years of dedicated service in education, to be celebrated at a community event, held in his honor, on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at the Herricks Community Center, Herricks, New York; and

WHEREAS, Jack Bierwirth earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University, and his Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Dr. Jack Bierwirth began his illustrious career teaching the sixth grade in Connecticut; throughout the next 20 years, he served in several leadership capacities in the Hempstead, Port Washington, Freeport and Sachem School Districts, making him one of the most experienced Long Island educators, responsible for the education of more than 50,000 students; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Dr. Jack Bierwirth was recruited to lead the largest school system in the Northwest, in Portland, Oregon; under his guidance, the district was selected by the Pew Charitable Trust as one of seven

districts in the country to pioneer implementation of standards-based education; and

WHEREAS, Five years later, Dr. Jack Bierwirth held the position of President of Outward Bound USA, the largest and oldest wilderness education program in the country, serving 30,000 teenagers and adults annually; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack Bierwirth returned to his Long Island roots in May of 2001, to take the leadership role of Superintendent of Herricks Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Dr. Jack Bierwirth has earned the reputation for collaborating with teachers, students, community members, and professional and government organizations in an effort to foster an environment of sharing, tolerance and global awareness throughout the Herricks School District; and

WHEREAS, Under his luminous leadership, Dr. Jack Bierwirth has helped shape Herricks Public Schools into a world-class school district, complete with an international curriculum; in addition, he established the first-ever high school partnership with the Foreign Policy Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the American public to learn more about the world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack Bierwirth has also served on numerous boards and held the position of President of the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents; and

WHEREAS, When he's not in school, Dr. Jack Bierwirth enjoys participating in various sports, such as tennis, golf, squash, and snow skiing; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dr. Jack Bierwirth provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of

young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack Bierwirth has clearly had an enduring impact on the

youth of the Herricks School District, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Jack Bierwirth upon the occasion of his retirement as an educator, and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Jack Bierwirth.