

2015-J1898

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ricky Palermo upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; 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; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ricky Palermo upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, A native of Batavia, New York, Ricky Palermo was involved in an automobile accident in 1981, which injured his spinal cord and left him paralyzed from the chest down; and

WHEREAS, With the support of family and friends, Ricky Palermo started an annual golf tournament in an effort to raise awareness and funding for people with spinal cord injuries; and

WHEREAS, For the past 17 years, the Ricky Palermo Spinal Injury Golf Tournament has donated significant funds in support of research and further care for those with this affliction; and

WHEREAS, This year's 18th Annual Palermo Golf Tournament and Dinner will be held on Saturday, August 2, 2015; other events taking place throughout the year include a lacrosse clinic, as well as a soccer and basketball clinic; and

WHEREAS, An avid sports fan, Ricky Palermo played soccer, basketball, and football at Byron Bergen High School; he was named Most Valuable Player in each of these sports, and is a recipient of his school's Athlete of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Ricky Palermo has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his parents, Virginia and Pat, his brother, Jim (Nancy), his sister, Patty (Joe), and his three nieces, Jamie, Amy, and Annie, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ricky Palermo upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ricky Palermo.