

## 2015-J2951

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lea Alford upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Jill Ann Livingston Scholarship Award by the Black Women's Association of Albany on June 20, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, honoring the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this 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 Lea Alford upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Jill Ann Livingston Scholarship Award by the Black Women's Association of Albany, to be celebrated at its Marian I. Hughes Scholarship Awards Dinner Dance on Saturday, June 20, 2015, at The Desmond Hotel, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The theme of this year's auspicious event will be "Vision to Victory!"; JoDee Kenney, News Anchor on Time Warner Cable News will serve as Keynote Speaker; Shari W. Quinn, local author and educator will be selling copies of her latest book, DISLOYALTY, and popular DJ Syxx-figgaz will provide dance music; and

WHEREAS, The Black Women's Association of Albany (BWAA) was founded on September 21, 1977, by a group of dynamic women with the purpose to stimulate social awareness, encourage cultural growth, help youth realize their full potential through education and serve as positive role models for African American women of all ages; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, the BWAA Jill Ann Livingston Scholarship Award was established by Calvin and Helen Livingston, in memory of their daughter, Jill Ann Livingston, a member of the BWAA who tragically passed away in 2011; and

WHEREAS, A Senior at Guilderland High School, Lea Alford has main-

tained an impressive 83.3% GPA; diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, she attends both regular and resource room classes, working very hard to keep pace with her peers in her large school; and

WHEREAS, Lea Alford is determined to get good grades, avoid negative influences and graduate from high school on time; fascinated by foreign languages, she taught herself to sing the Greek National Anthem in Greek, and took an Italian Level 1 class; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Lea Alford is a member of both the Girls Varsity Indoor and Outdoor Track Teams, and has performed community service at the Guilderland Public Library; she is also a vital member of the Reach Out Fellowship Church; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Lea Alford will study Occupational Therapy at Maria College; she plans to help people overcome their disabilities; and

WHEREAS, As Lea Alford takes her leave of Guilderland High School, she leaves a legacy of academic achievement, school involvement and community service to which others may aspire; and

WHEREAS, Lea Alford stands poised on the threshold of a broad and challenging world; a testament to the love and nurturing care of her family, friends and school; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Lea Alford, a young woman and able scholar, recognizing the value of her labors and the promise of her future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lea Alford upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Jill Ann Livingston Scholarship Award, to commend her for her outstanding academic achievement and to extend to her the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being,

fully confident of her response to a promising future and appreciative of the model she represents for all aspiring young people of the Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lea Alford.