

## 2015-J3432

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Tom Thompson upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the James Quinn Award by the New York State Farm Bureau

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry is part of the foundation upon which our distinct American heritage is built; New York State and the entire United States are dependent on our agricultural industry for a variety of food products; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of our farmers as they continue their hard work of cultivating the land, facing the many challenges of nature such as flood, drought and heat, in order to grow our food; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Tom Thompson upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the James Quinn Award by the New York State Farm Bureau, celebrated at its Annual Meeting from December 8-10, 2015, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Grand Island, New York, and a vital Farm Bureau member, Tom Thompson received this auspicious reward for his extraordinary efforts to serve and strengthen the agricultural industry throughout the past year; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, volunteer organization which is financed and controlled by member families for the purpose of solving economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture is New York's most important industry; in 2008, the farm economy generated \$4.45 billion; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 35,000 farms in New York State and 99 percent of those are family owned; a viable and strong agricultural

industry is not only beneficial to the state's farm and food industry, but to the economy of the state, hundreds of local communities, and to all consumers of New York; and

WHEREAS, New York has a tremendous agricultural resource base with abundant rainfall, productive soil, sufficient growing season, and proximity to the nation's largest markets; the outlook for the future of New York agriculture is one of great potential for a vigorous and thriving industry; and

WHEREAS, Through his diligence and expertise in farming, Tom Thompson has brought pride and recognition to himself, his local community, and to our great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Tom Thompson upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the James Quinn Award by the New York State Farm Bureau; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tom Thompson.