

2015-J3736

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Kyle Pray upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the J. Michael Duffett Award by the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Organization

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize those individuals within our midst who have contributed greatly to the quality of our lives by providing exceptional leadership and commitment to our youth; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those notable educators and athletic coaches within our midst who serve the youth of this great Empire State and who have distinguished themselves and their schools through their exemplary athletic achievements and their outstanding commitment to education; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Kyle Pray upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the J. Michael Duffett Award by the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Organization; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion was celebrated during the first period of the Buffalo Sabres game against the Florida Panthers on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, The J. Michael Duffett Award is presented annually by the Buffalo Sabres to honor a coach whose contributions to amateur hockey in Western New York has exemplified the teaching, love of the game and gentle humanity of J. Michael Duffett, a remarkable individual who worked for the Sabres and coached youth hockey before dying of cancer at age 39; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Pray, a sixth-grade teacher at Hoover Middle School and hockey coach at Kenmore East High School, has been a vital part of the development of youth hockey in his community during the past 30 years;

and

WHEREAS, This esteemed educator and leader was co-founder and first Vice President of the Tonawanda Lightning in the early 1990s, and coached the Lightning program to several league championships and two state tournament appearances over 15 years; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Kyle Pray was involved in numerous town house programs and started the annual Tonawanda Presidents Day Tournament; he also coached the Wheatfield Blades at the 13-15 age level and guided the team to the state semifinals; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to instructing and mentoring youth, Kyle Pray served as Head Coach of the Kenmore West High School Boys Hockey Team from 2001 to 2007, and helped lead his players to the Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation Championship in 2006; and

WHEREAS, From 2007 to the present, Kyle Pray has held the position of Head Coach of the Kenmore East High School Boys Hockey Team; during this time, he has guided his team to a New York State Championship in 2012 and two Section VI titles, as well as three Section VI post-season appearances; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Pray's overall coaching record during his time at Kenmore East and Kenmore West is an outstanding 214-108-24; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Pray has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; he is an Executive Committee member of the Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation and helps in guiding the high school league and overall growth of hockey in the Western New York area; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Kyle Pray is currently working on a committee to bring the High School State Tournament to the Harbor Center for the next three years; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Nancy, and their two sons Corey and Trevor, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his

life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Coach Kyle Pray's positive attitude, selfless commitment, goal-oriented and balanced approach to instruction, on top of his genuine concern for his students have contributed to his enduring success as a coach and mentor, earning him the just respect of his community and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kyle Pray upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the J. Michael Duffett Award by the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Organization; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kyle Pray.