

2015-J4302

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Mark Rutkowski for 28 years of distinguished service to the YMCA, and 12 years as Director for the New York State YMCA Youth & Government Program

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his dedication, commitment and efforts on behalf of the young people in his community and his profession, this Legislative Body is pleased to pay special tribute to Mark Rutkowski; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commend Mark Rutkowski for 28 years of distinguished service to the YMCA, and 12 years as Director for the New York State YMCA Youth & Government Program, along with providing direction to its Teen Action Agenda; and

WHEREAS, This momentous milestone will be celebrated with a special ceremony on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at the Desmond in Albany, New York, during the New York State YMCA Youth and Government Conference, March 10-13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA Youth and Government program is a national program of the Y that involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized, model-government programs; students from all over the United States have the opportunity to immerse themselves in experiential civic engagement and to, quite literally, practice democracy; and

WHEREAS, Teenagers meet in their local Youth and Government groups throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of their state and to propose legislation; the program culminates with teens serving as delegates at their state conference, debating bills on

the floor of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, For almost three decades, Mark Rutkowski has enthusiastically served the youth of YMCA programs in not only New York State, but throughout the Nation; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, Mark Rutkowski became employed at the Hazleton YMCA in Eastern Pennsylvania as a Physical Education Director; from 1978-1986, he served in the same capacity at YMCAs in Winsted, Connecticut and Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mark Rutkowski found his home at the Silver Bay YMCA in March of 1986; throughout 18 years of service, he rose quickly through the ranks, holding the positions of Program Director to Associate Executive Director of the Silver Bay Association; throughout his tenure, he made an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to cross his path; and

WHEREAS, While at Silver Bay, Mark Rutkowski became involved in the New York State YMCA Youth & Government Program; for the last 12 years, he has held the esteemed position of Director for the New York State Program; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Mark Rutkowski held numerous leadership roles with the planning committee for the Youth Conference on National Affairs and served as the Chair for the National Youth Governor's Conference in Washington, D. C.; he is also certified as a National YMCA Faculty Training Coordinator for YMCA staff working with teens; and

WHEREAS, As Director, Mark Rutkowski has witnessed the growth of all students progressing through the conference; he has literally shaped the lives of the young people he has taught and encountered in the program across New York State; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unremitting commitment to the YMCA, Mark Rutkowski has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the John R. Fisher Award, which recognizes the outstanding volunteer who demonstrates service and commitment to the annual leader-

ship conference; he also received the 2004 Dr. Paul M. Grist Service Award at the National Affairs Conference; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his community, Mark Rutkowski has been a vital member of the Hague Fire Department, and the Walworth Fire Department where he has held the title of Assistant Fire Chief for the last two years; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the time and energy he spends with the Youth and Government program, Mark Rutkowski enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing, paddling, running, and gardening; he is also a volunteer fire-fighter; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his loving wife, Gail, and his two treasured daughters, Katie and Allison, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Mark Rutkowski has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Mark Rutkowski for 28 years of distinguished service to the YMCA, and 12 years as Director for the New York State YMCA Youth & Government Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mark Rutkowski.