

2015-J4624

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Paul Grondahl upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2016 Media Award by the Turkish Cultural Center Albany

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 causes of peace and understanding, building bridges between cultures for the benefit of us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Paul Grondahl upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2016 Media Award by the Turkish Cultural Center Albany to be celebrated at its 5th Annual Friendship Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at the Wolferts Roost Country Club in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Turkish Cultural Center Albany (TCCA) is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting peace and understanding among people from diverse cultural backgrounds in New York's Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, The TCCA's 5th Annual Friendship Dinner and Award Ceremony is an expression of friendship with an ultimate goal of building bridges of understanding, peace and harmony among diverse communities; it also recognizes individuals and organizations for making differences in their communities by promoting social cohesion; and

WHEREAS, Paul Grondahl is receiving the TCCA Media Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to increasing awareness of the ongoing global refugee crisis; and

WHEREAS, An award-winning journalist and author, Paul Grondahl earned his Bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, and completed his Master's degree in

English literature from the University at Albany; and

WHEREAS, Since 1984, Paul Grondahl has ably served the citizens of his community as a staff writer for the Albany TIMES UNION; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure, this esteemed newsman's assignments have taken him across the world; he has covered stories from the Arctic to Antarctica, and travelled to such places as Northern Ireland, Africa and Haiti; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious career, Paul has won a number of journalism awards for his in-depth reporting, including the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award, the Scripps Howard National Journalism Award, and more than a dozen New York State Associated Press writing contest awards, as well as the Hearst Eagle Award, the highest recognition for a reporter in the Hearst Corp.; and

WHEREAS, Paul Grondahl is also the author of five books, including two acclaimed biographies of Theodore Roosevelt and Mayor Erastus Corning, and has been featured on C-SPAN's "About Books" and "Book TV"; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous honors for his writing, Paul Grondahl was named the 1997 Albany Author of the Year by the Albany Public Library and the 2004 Notable Author of the Year by both the Guilderland Public Library and East Greenbush Public Library; he was also named a 2005 Distinguished Alumnus in Arts and Letters by the University at Albany; and

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

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Mary, and their two children, Sam and Caroline, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

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

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Paul Grondahl upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2016 Media Award by the Turkish Cultural Center Albany; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Paul Grondahl.