

## 2015-J4666

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Kenneth J. Davis upon the occasion of his designation as a 2016 Inductee into the Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction, on May 6, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals who have distinguished themselves through their exemplary careers, accomplishments, and purposeful lives of service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Kenneth J. Davis upon the occasion of his designation as a 2016 Inductee into the Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction, to be celebrated at an Induction Ceremony on Friday, May 6, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction was established in 2012 by the Auburn Education Foundation to recognize, honor and celebrate graduates who have distinguished themselves through outstanding academic, professional, or civic achievements and to inspire current students to pursue a path towards personal success; and

WHEREAS, A man of singular merit, Kenneth J. Davis, Auburn High Class of 1983, has continually demonstrated tremendous competence, extraordinary intelligence and diligent leadership in his unwavering service to both his community and his profession and consequently has been selected for this most prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth J. Davis grew up in Auburn, New York, and graduated as Valedictorian of his senior class; after graduating, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Physics with a Certificate in Theater and Dance, with honors, from Princeton University; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth J. Davis furthered his education by obtaining his PhD

in Astrophysical, Planetary and Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Colorado; he then spent two years as a postdoctoral Fellow at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado; and WHEREAS, Today, Kenneth J. Davis holds the position of Professor of Atmospheric and Climate Science in the Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science at The Pennsylvania State University where he teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in atmospheric and climate science and has supervised eight master's theses and eight doctoral dissertations; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Kenneth J. Davis studies the earth's climate system, in particular the terrestrial carbon and water cycles; much of his research is motivated by the need to understand how humans are changing the climate via emissions of greenhouse gases and how we can best manage and minimize climate change and its impacts; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Kenneth J. Davis is currently studying sources and sinks of carbon dioxide and methane in the forests of central Pennsylvania, the forests of the Gulf Coast, the city of Indianapolis, and the Marcellus shale gas fields of northeastern Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth J. Davis has served in a variety of other advisory roles for the United States government agencies including NASA, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man was recently selected to lead a five-year, \$30 million, NASA airborne campaign to measure greenhouse gas concentrations and fluxes across the eastern United States; and

WHEREAS, A prolific author, Kenneth J. Davis was a contributing author to a U.S. CARBON CYCLE SCIENCE PLAN, in 2011, and has written and co-written 135 peer-reviewed scientific publications; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth J. Davis and his wife, Deb, live on a small farm outside of State College, Pennsylvania, with their youngest child, Mary and a flock of horses, dogs, cats and chickens; and

WHEREAS, An avid distance runner, Kenneth J. Davis has competed in many marathons including four ascents and descents of Pike's Peak; and  
WHEREAS, Faithful members of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, both Kenneth J. and Deb Davis teach religious education programs; and  
WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, the former Deb Smart, and his three children, Maggie, Nathan, and Mary, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Kenneth J. Davis upon the occasion of his designation as a 2016 Inductee into the Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction, on May 6, 2016; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kenneth J. Davis.