

2015-J4948

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Southold High School Team R.I.C.E. 870 upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Engineering Inspiration Award on April 9, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and pay tribute to those who, by achieving outstanding success in their educational endeavors and competitions, have inspired and brought pride to our majestic Empire State; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the dedication and commitment of our young people who distinguish themselves through excellence in scholastic competition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Southold High School Team R.I.C.E. 870 upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Engineering Inspiration Award on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Long Island Regional Competition at Hofstra University, Long Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Long Island Regional Competition is organized by School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc., which was founded more than 30 years ago with the goal of cultivating partnerships between local high schools and businesses which would provide students with practical experience and curriculum development and help the business community mentor and grow its future workforce; and

WHEREAS, Southold High School's Team R.I.C.E. 870 competed against 51 teams from Long Island, as well as a team from Brazil, where they placed second overall; however, the 24 members who competed were proud to win the Engineering Inspiration Award; and

WHEREAS, After inspecting all the teams' robots and quizzing the team

members, the judges proudly presented the members of Team R.I.C.E. 870 with this prestigious award, citing their knowledge of every aspect of the development of their robot, named Killer Rabbit; and

WHEREAS, The award also includes an invitation to the FIRST World Championships held at The Dome at America's Center, in St. Louis, Missouri, from April 27-30, 2016; this marks the third time in seven years that the Southold High School Team R.I.C.E. 870 has reached the competition's highest level; and

WHEREAS, Before competing at Hofstra University, the Southold High School Robotics Team won six of 11 matches at the Buckeye Regional in Cleveland, Ohio, in March of 2016; and

WHEREAS, This year's challenge, First Stonghold, was based on a popular medieval castle-conquering and battle-strategy game; robots gain points by incapacitating defenses and scoring boulders through goals in the opposition's tower; and

WHEREAS, Before the regional contest, teams are given just six weeks to create and practice with their robots, which are built to fit specific parameters and suit the type of competition, which changes each year; and

WHEREAS, This year, the Southold High School team was comprised of 34 members, who dedicated roughly seven hours a night, even on weekends, to build their robot; and

WHEREAS, Robotics classes teach students various skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication, leadership and ownership, all of which have led the robotics program to a level of success rarely achieved by small, rural schools such as Southold High School; and

WHEREAS, The incredible talent displayed by this team is due in great part to the efforts of co-Advisors, Christine Schade and Bob Gammon,

skilled and inspirational tutors, respected for their ability to develop potential into excellence; and

WHEREAS, The Southold High School Robotics team members are loyally

and enthusiastically supported by their Principal, William Galati, the entire school staff, family, fans, friends and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated members of the Southold High School Team R.I.C.E. 870's outstanding performance has clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of their school and community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Southold High School Robotics Team upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Engineering Inspiration Award on April 9, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the Southold High School Team R.I.C.E. 870, Christine Schade and Bob Gammon, co-Advisors, and William Galati, Principal, Southold High School.