

2015-K1526

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Matthew A. Rozell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Louis E. Yavner Teaching Award by the New York State Board of Regents on May 17, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals in the teaching profession who distinguish themselves in their dedication and commitment to their students; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Matthew A. Rozell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Louis E. Yavner Teaching Award by the New York State Board of Regents celebrated at an Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 17, 2016; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious award, named after long-time Board of Regents member Louis E. Yavner, is bestowed upon Matthew A. Rozell for his outstanding contributions to teaching about the Holocaust and other violations of human rights; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Hudson Falls High School, Matthew A. Rozell has been a Social Studies Teacher at his alma mater for almost 30 years; and

WHEREAS, As part of a class project, Matthew A. Rozell instructed his students to interview residents who had served in World War II; the information gathered, was posted on his "World War II Living History Project" website, which he launched 15 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Through the photographs and information posted there, people have recognized themselves or family members and connections have been made between survivors and the soldiers who rescued them; and

WHEREAS, Matthew A. Rozell organized three events at Hudson Falls High School in which more than 300 Holocaust survivors and soldiers were reunited, some meeting for the first time since World War II; this historic event drew interest from the United States Holocaust Memorial

Museum and was featured on "ABC World News" which named this inspiration teacher Rozell and his students as its "Persons of the Week"; and

WHEREAS, These incredible events gave the entire student body an opportunity to hear and speak with both survivors and liberators; and

WHEREAS, Believing in the power of teaching, the importance of the study of History, and especially the lessons people must learn, and teach, on the Holocaust, Matthew A. Rozell has encouraged a sense of responsibility as global citizens to his students, inspiring them to endeavor to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Well-respected and admired by many, Matthew A. Rozell continually works to follow his own advice and make the world a better place by reviving the history of the Holocaust and other human rights atrocities; and

WHEREAS, By resurrecting the greatest injustices in human history, Matthew A. Rozell's lessons convey the importance of striving for social justice; throughout the last five years, he has shared his knowledge about the Holocaust and human rights in local, national and international forums; and

WHEREAS, A true humanitarian, Matthew A. Rozell maintains a blog about the importance of history education and has written a book about the untold stories of soldiers who fought in the Pacific Theater, entitled THE THINGS OUR FATHERS SAW; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the 2015 Louis E. Yavner Teaching Award, Matthew A. Rozell has been the recipient of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Fellowship, the SUNY Geneseo Alumni Educator Excellence Award, and the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Founders' Medal for Education; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career thus far, Matthew A. Rozell has brought an uncompromising standard of excellence to his work and a warm sense of caring and concern to every young person he educates; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to recognize Matthew A. Rozell

for the courage and fortitude he has displayed throughout his life; for his ceaseless work against hate and prejudice, he has benefited the world in immeasurable ways; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Matthew A. Rozell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Louis E. Yavner Teaching Award by the New York State Board of Regents, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Matthew A. Rozell.