

2017-J799

Senate Resolution No. 799

BY: Senator KLEIN

CONGRATULATING the expert surgical and medical providers of the Montefiore Health System, The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, on the successful surgery that separated the conjoined McDonald twins

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who give outstanding service to the people of the Empire State and whose exceptional achievements save the lives of their fellow citizens should be congratulated; their extraordinary efforts so profoundly strengthen our shared commitment to family and community life; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the expert surgical and medical providers of the Montefiore Health System, The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, on the successful surgery that separated the conjoined McDonald twins; and

WHEREAS, Montefiore Health System is both a premier academic medical center and the University Hospital for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, serving the 3.1 million people living in the New York City region and the Hudson Valley; it combines nationally recognized clinical excellence with expertise in accountable, value-based care which focuses on patients, their families and the community; this vital System includes The Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM), the only hospital in the Bronx exclusively dedicated to meeting the healthcare needs of children; and

WHEREAS, Located in the Bronx, CHAM is a leading academic children's hospital, nationally renowned for its clinical excellence, innovative

research and commitment to the community and children of the Bronx, as well as to the pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists since opening in 2001; and

WHEREAS, On October 14, 2016, a team of approximately 50 expert surgical and medical providers at CHAM completed the last surgery that successfully separated 13-month-old craniopagus twin boys, Jadon and Anias McDonald; and

WHEREAS, James T. Goodrich, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sci. (Hon.), Director, Pediatric Neurosurgery, CHAM and Professor, Clinical Neurological Surgery, Pediatrics and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Oren Tepper, M.D., Director, Craniofacial and Aesthetic Surgery, Montefiore and assistant professor of Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, led the team through four surgeries over the course of 10 months at CHAM; and

WHEREAS, The multidisciplinary team consisted of: Dr. Goodrich, Dr. Tepper, Joaquim M. Farinhas, M.D., neuro-radiologist, Department of Radiology, Montefiore and Kamilah A. Dowling, D.N.P., nurse practitioner, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, CHAM, planned each stage of the separation using innovative virtual planning technology to create 3D models of the boys' brains and skulls; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the entire CHAM staff provided both pre- and post-surgery care to the McDonald siblings; this is the first time the team used virtual planning and 3D printing technologies in a series of highly complex surgeries; the models were used as guides for the procedures, allowing the team to carefully plan each stage in advance, mapping out the boys' anatomy prior to incision; and

WHEREAS, The McDonald boys are the seventh set of craniopagus conjoined twins Dr. Goodrich and the CHAM staff have successfully separated with various surgical teams from around the world; out of the seven surgeries, two were performed in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Goodrich and his medical personnel at CHAM have now

consulted on a total of 21 sets of craniopagus conjoined twins; each set of separations has resulted in good outcomes with no deaths or severe morbidities; and

WHEREAS, Jadon and Anias McDonald are still recovering and will likely spend several months getting rehabilitation therapies, strengthening their bodies, and continuing to develop their distinct personalities; the boys will return to CHAM regularly for follow-up care with Dr. Tepper and Dr. Goodrich, who will both continue to closely monitor the boys' progress; and

WHEREAS, Montefiore Health System combines clinical and academic experience by pushing the boundaries of current research and continuing to be a leader in innovation and technology, allowing for the successful separation of the McDonald twins; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted and skilled individuals who recognize that the preservation of life is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as gifted surgeons and exceptional medical staff; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the expert surgical and medical providers of the Montefiore Health System, The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, on the successful surgery that separated the conjoined McDonald twins; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to aforementioned surgeons and medical personnel of the Montefiore Health System, The Children's Hospital at Montefiore; and the McDonald family.