

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Paarth Shah, of Horseheads, New York, upon the occasion of his designation as a State Honoree in the 16th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, honoring the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Paarth Shah has distinguished himself as a young man of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of community service, purposefulness of life, and sense of responsibility rarely achieved in youthful years; and

WHEREAS, Paarth Shah, age 16, of Horseheads, New York, and a Junior at Horseheads High School, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by being named a 2011 Prudential Spirit of Community State Honoree; he was nominated for this high honor by Horseheads High School; and

WHEREAS, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, As one of only two New York State Honorees, Paarth Shah will receive a monetary award, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D.C., April 30-May 3, 2011, for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, Paarth Shah raised \$23,000 to renovate computer lab facilities at schools in India; during a trip to India with his parents in 2003, Paarth was struck by the level of poverty he saw there; and

WHEREAS, Three years later when he saw TV news reports of flooding in the town of Surat, Paarth Shah was deeply saddened by the loss of life and property due to the torrential rains and ravaging waters and every time he would eat, drink or have fun, the thought of those in Surat plagued him; and

WHEREAS, Paarth Shah decided to do something to help and recruited two friends to help him raise money by conducting a penny drive, making presentations to local businesses and community organizations, and appealing for donations at local Indian events; and

WHEREAS, As a result of these efforts, Paarth returned to India and provided funds to renovate computer lab facilities at two schools in Surat and to install 60 computers, benefiting more than 3,000 students; and

WHEREAS, He also conducted a workshop for the students on the importance of community service; and

WHEREAS, Also, while he was in India, Paarth Shah encountered a poor woman crying in the street because her son had died and she didn't have the money to cremate him; Paarth is now working to raise enough money to build a crematorium for the village; and

WHEREAS, The success of the State of New York, the strength of our communities, and the vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Paarth Shah who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Paarth Shah, commending him for his outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community service and recognizing the value of his labors and the promise of his future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations with praise and pride to commend Paarth Shah for his achievements and to

extend to him the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being, fully confident of his response to the challenges of a promising future and appreciative of the model he represents for all young people of the Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Paarth Shah.