

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Emily Stephen upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as a Gold and Silver Medalist in the Special Olympics World Games

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to extend its full recognition and grateful tribute to the athletes of New York State who have dedicated their purposeful lives to athletic achievement and proudly represented their great State and Nation in Special Olympics competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to join the Saratoga, New York, community in honoring Emily Stephen, a young woman of great skill, personal courage and unparalleled dedication, whose character and athletic achievements are world-renowned and personify the highest ideals of the American spirit and Special Olympics competition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to congratulate Emily Stephen of Saratoga, New York, upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as Gold and Silver Medalist in the Special Olympics World Games; and

WHEREAS, Emily Stephen knows first-hand as a 14-year veteran and a supremely accomplished athlete in the Special Olympics; skiing for 20 years and competing in Equestrian since age 14, she recently returned from her first World Games held in Pyeongchang, South Korea, where she won a gold medal in the super giant slalom and took silver in the giant slalom; and

WHEREAS, More than 170 athletes represented Team USA in South Korea with countries ranging from Norway, Czech Republic and Canada competing; Emily Stephen, who was competing in her first World Games qualified to be nominated by coaches to attend the World Games after winning a gold medal at States; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics has played a huge part in Emily Stephen's growth; she has been given so many opportunities and has matured and gained confidence throughout; in addition to alpine skiing, she excels in Equestrian; and

WHEREAS, In October of 2012 at Skidmore Stables, Emily Stephen earned the Gold at the state games; to prepare for both skiing and equestrian, she trains three nights a week at Saratoga Health and Wellness; Emily gets a lot of moral support from her mother, Kate, and she also practices on her edging technique on the mountains with her coach Ken Ritzenburg; and

WHEREAS, At 28 years of age, Emily Stephen could reasonably compete at a high level in skiing and equestrian for the foreseeable future; the challenges of the future include the Summer Games at Los Angeles in 2015 as well as the Winter Games at Austria in 2017; and

WHEREAS, A role model for all, Emily Stephen is a talented, dedicated athlete who has brought honor to her family, her coaches, and her community of friends who have encouraged her progress and commended her hard work; and

WHEREAS, A gifted athlete, Emily Stephen's character and achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who would aspire to such extraordinary success; and

WHEREAS, Many will only dream of competing in the Special Olympics World Games; this young gifted athlete from the great State of New York, through her hard work and tenacious spirit, has made that vision a reality, and has proudly represented her country in competition among the world's finest athletes, an honor that gives just cause for her family,

community and State to be exceedingly proud of her achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Emily Stephen upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as a Gold and Silver Medalist in the Special Olympics World Games, and extend its heartfelt congratulations on her athletic achievements, and wish her continued success; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Emily Stephen.