

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to Alyssa Rodemeyer upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition for speaking out against bullying

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose lives serve as an inspiration to their family and friends, and to the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to Alyssa Rodemeyer upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition for speaking out against bullying; and

WHEREAS, A senior at Williamsville North High School, Alyssa Rodemeyer, age 17, is a young social activist who speaks out against all types of bullying in schools across the country; and

WHEREAS, In September 2001, Alyssa Rodemeyer lost her younger brother, Jamey, at age 14, due to a bullying problem; and

WHEREAS, In late 2001, Alyssa Rodemeyer and her mother presented an award to Lady Gaga, the famous pop singer and Jamey's favorite music artist, for the Born This Way Foundation (BTWF); Lady Gaga convinced Alyssa to speak out on behalf of her anti-bullying campaign associated with BTWF; and

WHEREAS, Overcoming her fear of public speaking, Alyssa Rodemeyer began making presentations against bullying using Jamey's story as a powerful example; she stressed the importance of getting involved within the school community as well as the importance of human relationships; and

WHEREAS, In May 2012, Alyssa Rodemeyer was a judge to choose the nominees and final eight winners for the Great American No Bull Challenge, a youth-led campaign and video contest throughout America that focuses on cyber bullying; and

WHEREAS, On May 8, 2013, Alyssa Rodemeyer spoke out against bullying at St. Joe's Collegiate Institute in honor of the Eric S. Pitman Ripples of Hope Lecture series; and

WHEREAS, Planning to study psychology at the University of Buffalo in the fall of 2013, Alyssa Rodemeyer's faith in humanity has increased as she finds more and more support against teen-level bullying and bullying in general; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her outstanding community service, a period of constructive involvement, Alyssa Rodemeyer has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues, family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Alyssa Rodemeyer has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to Alyssa Rodemeyer upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition for speaking out against bullying; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alyssa Rodemeyer.