LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Kenneth Mitchell upon the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of the South Orangetown Central School District

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Kenneth Mitchell upon the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of the South Orangetown Central School District; he will officially retire effective December 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Mitchell has served the students, parents, faculty and staff of the South Orangetown community since July 14, 2008, expertly leading the school district through the many challenges facing public education with courage, vision, and commitment; and

WHEREAS, Deeply committed to public education, Kenneth Mitchell has enjoyed an illustrious 37-year career in the field; he worked in the Nyack Union Free School District from 1980 to 1991, went to districts in Orange County, and then spent 12 years as a principal and assistant superintendent in Chappaqua and Bedford; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Mitchell's distinguished tenure as Superintendent of the South Orangetown Central School District is particularly notable for his tremendous activity in public school advocacy, his leadership in describing the impact of testing on students, and the development and implementation of the school district's long term plans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Mitchell's tenure is also marked by his boldness in the face of difficulty, as he superbly demonstrated in 2009 when he disarmed an angry parent who had confronted him with a gun in his office at South Orangetown Middle School; for this daring act, Dr. Kenneth Mitchell was hailed as a hero; and

WHEREAS, In 2014 Kenneth Mitchell is also completing his term as president of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents, an organization representing 76 school districts and four BOCES in Rockland, Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties; and

WHEREAS, Both the South Orangetown Central School District and the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents have benefited greatly from Dr. Kenneth Mitchell's skills in research, writing, and the ability to render complex issues comprehensible, as well as his well-known capacity to see the big picture amid details; and

WHEREAS, After retirement, Dr. Kenneth Mitchell hopes to work with inexperienced administrators to help them understand the complexities of the school system; and

WHEREAS, Educators and administrators like Dr. Kenneth Mitchell provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys, mentoring upcoming education leaders, and working to ensure the success of the public education system in future years; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Mitchell has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of the South Orangetown Central School District and the entire region, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for many impressive years of dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to commend the

efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Kenneth Mitchell upon the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of the South Orangetown Central School District, and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Kenneth Mitchell.