

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Syracuse Spelling Champion Alaina Kenny for advancing to the Semifinal Round of the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize those young people within our midst who, by achieving outstanding success in educational competition, have inspired and brought pride to their community and the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Alaina Kenny upon the occasion of her advancement to the Semifinal Round of the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee, held May 28-29, 2014, at Gaylord National Resort at National Harbor in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Alaina Kenny, a bright and talented 13-year-old eighth grader at Onondaga Hill Middle School, won THE POST-STANDARD/WCNY Spelling Bee in February, allowing her to represent the Syracuse area in the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee; it was her fourth year of competition in the regional spelling bee, and she was among 281 winners of regional spelling bees to compete at the national event; and

WHEREAS, Out of the original field of 281 spellers, Alaina Kenny was among just 46 spellers to advance to the Semifinal Round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, becoming the first winner of THE POST-STANDARD/WCNY Spelling Bee to go that far in the competition since 2006; and

WHEREAS, Alaina Kenny correctly spelled "organzine" and "funori" in the two semifinal rounds to give her a perfect record of four words spelled correctly on stage during the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee was broadcast nationwide on ESPN, and welcomed spellers from around the nation, and even the world; the spellers ranged in age from 8-14 years old, and all were vying for the esteemed title of champion; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee, Alaina Kenny was supported by her proud parents, Patrick and Maria, and her brother, Brian, as well as her community back home; and

WHEREAS, Alaina Kenny, in achieving this outstanding success, may take just pride in the inspiration and contribution to the spirit of excellence she brings to her family, friends, school, and region; and

WHEREAS, Poised with enthusiasm and determined purpose, Alaina Kenny now stands honorably in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the importance of hard work, focus and discipline; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her spelling achievements, Alaina Kenny is a talented student athlete, who has earned four varsity letters in track and field events and logged more than 1,200 miles of running during the 2013-14 school year; she also plays the flute in her school's concert band, piano in her school's jazz ensemble, and reads various books and novels in her free time; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize Alaina Kenny upon the occasion of her advancement to the Semifinal Round of the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alaina Kenny.