

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending James Edward Kelly upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for his achievements, toughness and commitment to those most in need in Buffalo and Western New York

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to their communities and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend James Edward Kelly upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, James "Jim" Edward Kelly was born on February 14, 1960, the fourth eldest of six children born to Joseph and Alice Kelly; he was raised in East Brady, Pennsylvania, in a household that emphasized the importance of hard work, integrity and respect for others; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kelly went on to enjoy a legendary career and achievements at all levels of professional football, from Punt, Pass and Kick Champion to the Hall of Fame; we celebrate his talent and achievements and thank him for all he has done for Buffalo and the Buffalo Bills; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man married Jill Waggoner a woman of uncommon beauty and substance, in May of 1996; the couple went on to have three wonderful children: Erin, Camryn and Hunter James; and

WHEREAS, Jim and Jill Kelly's true legacy, their children, have helped them understand new definitions of toughness; as Jim said in his Hall of Fame speech, "It's been written that the trademark of my career was toughness. The toughest person I ever met in my life was my hero, my soldier, my son, Hunter. I love you, buddy"; Hunter spent all the days of his life fighting Krabbe disease; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by his child's strength, James Edward Kelly campaigned, along with his wife Jill, to help find a cure for this fatal disease; he set up Hunter's Hope, a foundation to seek the cure of this syndrome and raise funds for medical research; so far Hunter's Hope has raised over two million dollars to help find the cure for Krabbes and other Leukodystrophies; and

WHEREAS, Committed to giving back to his community, Jim Kelly started Kelly for Kids, a not-for-profit organization committed to providing funding and support to those organizations that operate for the benefit of specially challenged youth; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kelly, through his generous support has become a regular at Cradle Beach Camp, a residential summer enrichment camping program for children, ages 8-16, with special needs and/or those who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kelly visits the camp for special needs children every summer and talks one on one with each camper; at the center of the entire camp is the Jim Kelly House where the inscription proudly reads, "Jim Kelly-Our Hero!"; and

WHEREAS, James Edward Kelly has done more than win football games and earn a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame; with his courage and compassion he has won the hearts and minds of everyone in Buffalo and Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Known for his "linebacker mentality," bravery and toughness on the football field, Jim Kelly has recently shown even more courage and toughness with medical and personal challenges off the field; it can be said without extravagance that we are all enriched by the example of his toughness and courage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend James Edward Kelly upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for his achievements, toughness and commitment to

those most in need in Buffalo and Western New York; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James Edward Kelly, his family and the Cradle Beach Camp.