

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Chris and Kathy McCann of Locust Valley, New York, upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Community Champions Award by PeerPals.org

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 professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Chris and Kathy McCann of Locust Valley, New York, upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Community Champions Award by PeerPals.org; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at the Third Annual Planting Seeds of Community Dinner, to be held at the Fox Hollow in Woodbury, New York, on Thursday, April 11, 2013; and

WHEREAS, PeerPals.org is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building communities of inclusion for children with disabilities as they enter kindergarten; it matches preschool age children with disabilities with typically developing children in their communities for one on one play dates; and

WHEREAS, PeerPals.org also holds group play dates in developmentally appropriate settings; these play dates are supervised by professionals in the field of special education; and

WHEREAS, The PeerPals.org model gives each child with a disability the opportunity to enter kindergarten with at least one friendship with a typically developing peer; its goal is to duplicate and implement the PeerPals.org model nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Chris and Kathy McCann of Locust Valley, New York, are both graduates of Marist College; they are being honored for their service to the community and for their dedication to the PeerPals.org mission; and

WHEREAS, Chris McCann is President of 1-800-Flowers.com and serves on the Board of Trustees of Marist College; he has been a basketball Coach for CYO and is a dedicated fundraiser for and supporter of IGHT (Independent Group Home Living, Inc.); and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Marist College with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Kathy McCann pursued a career working with the developmentally disabled; she has served the community as a Boy Scout leader and Girl Scout leader; she is also a member of the Parent Steering Committee at The College of William and Mary, and an active member of the Parent Council at Friends Academy; and

WHEREAS, Chris and Kathy McCann are the proud parents of three children; and

WHEREAS, Volunteerism is an essential element of all societies; it provides a way in which the human values of community, caring and serving can be sustained and strengthened; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Chris and Kathy McCann have displayed throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Chris and Kathy McCann of Locust Valley, New York, upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Community Champions Award by PeerPals.org; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Chris and Kathy McCann.