

**BY:** Senator AKSHAR

**CONGRATULATING** Parker Stokes upon the occasion of capturing the NYSPHSAA Division II 3,000 meter Steeplechase Championship on June 10, 2017

**WHEREAS,** Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

**WHEREAS,** Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

**WHEREAS,** A standout sophomore steeplechase runner for the Maine-Endwell Spartans, Parker Stokes earned his first state championship in the 3,000 meter Steeplechase on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at Union-Endicott High School in Endicott, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Parker Stokes won this grueling 7 1/2 lap event by a winning margin of 14 seconds in his division, recording an outstanding time of 9:30.62; and

**WHEREAS,** This exceptional athlete also placed 5th overall in the New York State Federation, which includes every secondary school in New York, both private and public; and

**WHEREAS,** With this monumental win, Parker Stokes will compete in the 2,000 meter Steeplechase at the New Balance High School Nationals on Saturday, June 17, 2017, in Greensboro, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his success in the Steeplechase, Parker Stokes ran in two New York State Championships in Cross-Country, and two New York State Federation Championship races; and

**WHEREAS,** The athletic talent displayed by Parker Stokes due in great part to the efforts of Coach Michael Cordi, a skilled and inspirational tutor, respected for his ability to develop potential into excellence; and

**WHEREAS,** Parker Stokes' overall record is outstanding; he was loyally and enthusiastically supported by his parents, Dave and Leslie Stokes, his sister, Lindsey, fans, friends and the community at large; and

**WHEREAS,** Athletically and academically, Parker Stokes has proven himself to be an unbeatable combination of talents, reflecting favorably on his school; and

**WHEREAS,** Coach Michael Cordi has done a superb job in guiding,

molding and inspiring Parker Stokes towards his goals; and

**WHEREAS,** Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Coach Michael Cordi and Parker Stokes have clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of their school; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Parker Stokes upon the occasion of capturing the NYSPHSAA Division II 3,000 meter Steeplechase Championship on June 10, 2017; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Parker Stokes and Coach Michael Cordi.