

BY: Senator KENNEDY

COMMEMORATING the 10th Anniversary of Ballin' for
a Cause in Buffalo, New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Ballin' for a Cause in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ballin' for a Cause is an internationally recognized non-profit organization which hosts the Ballin' for a Cause World Games each year, an event which brings together 700 participants and over 60 teams for a competitive weekend of 5-on-5 basketball; and

WHEREAS, Ballin' for a Cause World Games serves as a stage to raise money for education, youth sports, and community and health programs; in 2016, the tournament featured 11 international teams, ranging from Canada, Puerto Rico, Cambodia, Philippines, Turkey, India, Africa, Haiti, First Nations, Asia and Dominican Republic; and

WHEREAS, Serving over 500 youth annually through the proceeds from the World Games, Ballin' for a Cause strives to utilize sports as a tool to engage youths in positive year-round programs which feature their four core areas of education, youth sports, health and community giving, their BFAC Big 4 Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Executive Director of Ballin' for a Cause, Lindsey Taylor is a former student-athlete from the City of Buffalo who created this program to meet the extreme need for year-round programs for the youth; and

WHEREAS, Students ranging in age from 5-22 who join this program, benefit from the positive impact that has been invested in their lives, and will continue to live a purposeful and meaningful life, as their mentors have taught them; and

WHEREAS, Every participant of Ballin' for a Cause is eligible for a scholarship grant upon the completion of their senior year; in return, participants who graduate from their program will be motivated to reciprocate the same caring investment to the next generation; and

WHEREAS, The tournament has been held in different cities such as Toronto, Cleveland, New York City, Dallas, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Erie, and Buffalo; in 2017, this vital organization will mark its 10th Anniversary with the National Basketball Tournament on May 19-21, 2017,

in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Ballin' for a Cause; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lindsey Taylor, Executive Director, Ballin' for a Cause.