

BY: Senator MAY

HONORING Deborah Carey for her outstanding advocacy, education, and fundraising efforts for lymphedema awareness

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals committed to helping to improve the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing tradition, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Deborah Carey, a resident of Syracuse, New York, for her outstanding advocacy, education, and fundraising efforts for lymphedema awareness, in conjunction with the observance of World Lymphedema Day on Friday, March 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, World Lymphedema Day brings awareness to this often-debilitating disease that millions are born with, but which many times is the result of cancer treatment, and helps find strength through collective celebration and is also set aside to honor inspirational lymphedema patients and advocates; and

WHEREAS, Up to 10 million Americans, and 250 million people worldwide, live with either primary lymphedema or secondary lymphedema, including 30% of all breast cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Carey, along with her husband, Jim, began their fundraising and awareness efforts in 2013, when they joined the Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) and when Jim ran the New York City Marathon under LE&RN's banner; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, Deborah Carey was diagnosed with breast cancer, and reached out to LE&RN for guidance in helping to prevent lymphedema from developing as a side effect of her cancer surgery and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Carey was able to receive cutting-edge surgery from world-renowned Memorial Sloan Kettering surgeon Dr. Joseph Dayan to treat her cancer and mitigate her chances of developing lymphedema; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Carey's successful surgical and post-operative treatment to diminish the development of lymphedema has inspired her to advocate for all New Yorkers to be informed of their potential risk; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional woman volunteers at an upstate New York hospital where her interviews have revealed that personnel had little or no training in dealing with lymphedema; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Deborah Carey advocates for all doctors to be educated in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of lymphedema, and

to inform their patients of their risk; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Carey has funded a grant to LE&RN for research and advocacy initiatives focused on new treatments and lymphedema education for those diagnosed at-risk for the disease; and

WHEREAS, She has worked tirelessly to promote lymphedema and lymphatic disease education, research and advocacy, and continues to be a positive role model for all lymphedema and lymphatic disease patients; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Deborah Carey for her outstanding advocacy and promotion of lymphedema education and awareness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Deborah Carey, and the Lymphatic Education & Research Network.