

BY: Senator PALUMBO

COMMENDING Caitlyn Michiels upon the occasion of her designation as a Distinguished Finalist in the 26th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, honoring the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Caitlyn Michiels upon the occasion of her designation as a Distinguished Finalist in the 26th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program; and

WHEREAS, Caitlyn Michiels has distinguished herself as a young woman of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of community service, purposefulness of life, and sense of responsibility rarely achieved in youthful years; and

WHEREAS, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are designed to emphasize the importance our Nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Caitlyn Michiels, a resident of Mastic, New York, and a fifth-grader at Moriches Elementary School has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by receiving a 2021 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious award honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to their communities; and

WHEREAS, After being diagnosed with a rare eye disease in 2018, Caitlyn Michiels started a nonprofit organization which has collected more than 700 pairs of used eyeglasses for children who cannot afford them, and has raised over \$30,000 to help people pay for needed eye care, spread awareness of eye disease, and buy fluorescent light covers for her district's elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Caitlyn Michiels persuaded Suffolk County officials to enact "Caitlyn's Law," which provides for the distribution of eye health information and designates the month of August as Children's Eye Health and Safety Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, The success of the State of New York, the strength of our communities, and the vitality of American society depend, in great

measure, upon the dedication of young people like Caitlyn Michiels, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Caitlyn Michiels for her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community service, recognizing the value of her labors and the promise of her future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations, with praise and pride, to commend Caitlyn Michiels for her achievements, and to extend to her the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Caitlyn Michiels.