

**BY:** Senator KENNEDY

**HONORING** Linda Batwin O'Donovan 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 in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Linda Batwin O'Donovan, a resident of Saugerties, New York, for her outstanding advocacy, education, and fundraising efforts for lymphedema awareness, in conjunction with the observance of World Lymphedema Day on March 6, 2021; 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 worldwide, live with either primary lymphedema or secondary lymphedema, including many that have received treatment for cancer; and

**WHEREAS,** Linda Batwin O'Donovan, along with her husband, Gene, began their fundraising and awareness efforts in 2015, when they joined the Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) by participating in the NY Run/Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2011, Linda Batwin O'Donovan was diagnosed with lymphedema; and

**WHEREAS,** Linda and Gene O'Donovan lobbied in Washington, D.C. on behalf of all New Yorkers living with lymphatic disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Linda Batwin O'Donovan received LE&RN's Advocate Award at the 2019 NY Run/Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases; and

**WHEREAS,** This extraordinary woman has worked tirelessly to promote lymphedema and lymphatic disease education, research and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS,** Linda Batwin O'Donovan 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 Linda Batwin O'Donovan 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 Linda Batwin O'Donovan, and the Lymphatic Education & Research Network.