

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the untimely death of Justin Bodhi Steigmeier, beloved son, Taekwondo Teacher, student, Eagle Scout candidate, and cherished family and community member

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Justin Bodhi Steigmeier, an extraordinary young man of indomitable faith and dedication whose short, yet purposeful life will long serve as a standard to which others might aspire; and

WHEREAS, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier of Yorktown Heights, New York, died on December 19, 2023, at the age of 15; and

WHEREAS, Born in Sleepy Hollow, New York on June 30, 2008, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier was a high school sophomore and attendant of Our Montessori School in Yorktown Heights, New York, after some time spent as a homeschooler; and

WHEREAS, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier distinguished himself as a dedicated student, volunteer, and teacher, and, through his hard work and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community, will be forever memorialized by this Esteemed Body; and

WHEREAS, A student at W.S. Jeung Taekwondo for eight years, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier achieved the rank of Second Degree Blackbelt; he later became an assistant instructor and staff member teaching alongside Master Philip Jeung; and

WHEREAS, A result of his unrelenting dedication to the martial arts, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier, a member of the Demonstration Team, was a two-time Gold medalist in Poomsae, and a Silver medalist in Sparring at the New York State Taekwondo Championships in 2019 and 2023; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier had the privilege to travel to South Korea and train at Kukkiwon, the World Taekwondo Headquarters, as well as Taekwondowon in Muju and his Grandmaster's school, Yong In University, a truly profound and impactful experience; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier became the recipient of the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award and received a letter from the White House signed by the President of the United States for his 100 hours of meaningful volunteerism and commitment to teaching Taekwondo; and

WHEREAS, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier was a member of the Boy Scouts of America in Troop 238 of Shrub Oak, New York; he was a Patrol Leader and Candidate for the coveted rank of Eagle Scout; he earned 21 merit badges, several awards, and completed dozens of volunteer hours serving his community, truly standing as a role model to all those who had the honor of knowing him; and

WHEREAS, For several years Justin Bodhi Steigmeier attended 4 Elements Earth Education in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey; most recently, he was involved in the Teen Leadership Program where he had much fun running free while also practicing the ancient arts of tracking, wilderness survival, and natural awareness; and

WHEREAS, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier was known for his quiet and humble nature, sense of humor, sharp intellect, insight, and maturity beyond his years; he loved math, technology, spirituality, philosophy, and mythology, as well as nature, being in the water, and playing video games with his friends; and

WHEREAS, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier is survived by his parents, Melanie Ryan and Andrew Steigmeier; grandparents, Andrew C. Steigmeier, Carolyn Steigmeier, Susan Katz, and Peter Katz; many aunts, uncles, and cousins, all whom loved him and who he loved dearly; he is predeceased by grandparents Donna Steigmeier and Patrick Ryan; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Justin Bodhi Steigmeier leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Justin Bodhi Steigmeier, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Justin Bodhi Steigmeier.