

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Alex and Danielle Gamelin upon the occasion of capturing a Gold Medal in Ice Dancing at the 2009 United States Junior Figure Skating Championships

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those young people within the State of New York who have inspired and brought pride to their school and community by achieving outstanding success in athletic competition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Alex and Danielle Gamelin upon the occasion of capturing a Gold Medal in Ice Dancing at the 2009 United States Junior Figure Skating Championships in Lake Placid, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born in Boston, Alex and Danielle Gamelin have always wanted to be ice dancers; they saw their first competition on television when they were three and announced they wanted to do the same; and

WHEREAS, The family moved to North Merrick in 1998, to be nearer to family members on Long Island and Alex and Danielle Gamelin skated for the first time at the age of seven during a birthday party at the Newbridge Arena in Bellmore; and

WHEREAS, Alex and Danielle Gamelin started taking basic skating lessons in 2000 and teamed up for the first time in 2003; representing the Skating Club of New York, they are qualified members of the United States Figure Skating Association and have won bronze, silver and other gold medals in regional contests since beginning competition in the 2006-07 season; and

WHEREAS, Alex and Danielle Gamelin currently practice 28 hours a week, as well as taking ballet and ballroom dance lessons at a Greenvale studio, and weight training and high-intensity calisthenics at a Bellmore gym; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Alex and Danielle Gamelin travel twice a week to Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, where Russian Olympic Gold medalist Evgeny Platov, an inspiration since they first saw him ice dancing on television in 1996, is one of their trainers and choreographs their "free dance" routines; and

WHEREAS, After attending local public schools through eighth grade, Alex and Danielle Gamelin are now enrolled in the flexible programs of Laurel Springs School, a private K12 distance-learning program based in Ojai, California, where they are taking honors classes in world history, literature and foreign language, among other subjects; and

WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, Alex and Danielle Gamelin now stand honorably, with just pride in their accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by their coaches, family and friends; and

WHEREAS, With Alex and Danielle Gamelin throughout have been their parents, Lee and Donna Gamelin, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of their lives and rejoice in their many achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when young people of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Alex and Danielle Gamelin upon the occasion of capturing a Gold Medal in Ice Dancing at the 2009 United States Junior Figure Skating Championships, and to extend to them its best wishes for a future of purposeful success and well-being, fully confident of their response to a promising future and appreciative of the model they represent for all aspiring young people of the Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alex and Danielle Gamelin.