

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Jordan Schessler on her outstanding advocacy to raise awareness and funds for Lymphedema research

WHEREAS, In honor of National Lymphedema Network's D-Day on March 6, 2011, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Jordan Schessler, an incredible and invaluable advocate for Lymphedema research and education, on her outstanding advocacy to raise awareness and funds for Lymphedema research; and

WHEREAS, Jordan Schessler, an 18-year-old woman from Plainview, Long Island, has done a commendable job raising awareness and funds to find a cure for Lymphedema; and

WHEREAS, There is no cure for lymphedema and affected individuals endure physical and emotional distress caused by the chronic swelling in their extremities, torso, head, and neck, or abdomen; lymphedema maintenance requires lifetime surveillance and treatment consisting of complete decongestive therapy (CDT) from a certified lymphedema therapist, use of compression bandages and garments, and daily self-care; and

WHEREAS, As illustrated quite elegantly in her essay "I Have Lymphedema - Lymphedema Does Not Have Me" published in the July/September 2010 edition of the National Lymphedema Network Magazine, Jordan Schessler has engaged Lymphedema patients of all ages, especially children who struggle to live with their condition; and

WHEREAS, Jordan Schessler created a young adult support group to establish a forum for young Lymphedema patients to engage other patients; through this young adult support group, Jordan has impressed upon young patients that Lymphedema should never stop them from doing anything they wished to do; and

WHEREAS, Lymphedema failed to stop Jordan Schessler from captaining her high school varsity volleyball and softball teams, but this amazing young woman has defied the odds by playing softball at the collegiate level at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Jordan Schessler's success creating the young adult support group propelled her to step up her activism; during her high school career, she organized two fundraisers called "the Scavenger Hunt for a Cure for Lymphedema"; the two events were huge successes and raised a significant amount for the National Lymphedema Network; and

WHEREAS, Perhaps Jordan Schessler's most rewarding aspect of her advocacy has been the opportunity to become a role model for those struggling with Lymphedema; she believes encouraging kids to live their dreams allowed her to realize another role in her journey, that of being a mentor and advocate, as she could share information she had to figure out on her own; in addition, she feels that in helping these children, she ultimately helps herself; 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 commend Jordan Schessler for her advocacy for Lymphedema awareness as well as for her desire to help those struggling with Lymphedema; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jordan Schessler, Plainview, Long Island, New York.