

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Debra Quinn upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York State Senate Liberty Medal

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those citizens who merit special commendation for exceptional, heroic or humanitarian acts and achievements on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Debra Quinn upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York State Senate Liberty Medal for her advocacy on behalf of other citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Debra Quinn has tirelessly advocated on behalf of individuals living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease; and

WHEREAS, Debra Quinn began her work in educating the public about ALS and her advocacy on behalf of people with ALS, following the loss of her sister to the disease in 2007; prior to the passing of her sister, she had witnessed the loss of a great aunt, an aunt, her father and her grandmother to ALS; and

WHEREAS, Diagnosed with ALS in 2009, Debra Quinn has familial ALS, a form of the disease affecting 5-10% of ALS patients; through research, she has found more than twenty ancestors through 13 generations who were afflicted with ALS; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to creating awareness, Debra Quinn remains active in the Western New York region, sharing her story about ALS and relating the physical, emotional and financial struggles that the disease brings to patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, Debra Quinn works closely with the ALS Association's Rochester chapter to generate awareness of the disease; her team raised a substantial amount in the 2010 Walk to Defeat ALS fundraising event; the funds generated are used to sustain patient care and support research to find a cure for the disease; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated advocate, Debra Quinn works with local, state, and federal legislators to educate them on the financial impact of the disease on families and to promote policies that provide help for patients and caregivers in accessing services; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Debra Quinn participated in the Association's National ALS Advocacy Day and Public Policy Conference in Washington, DC, as a presenter for a breakout session about familial ALS during the conference; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and honor citizens who dedicate themselves to advocating for their neighbors in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Debra Quinn upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York State Senate Liberty Medal for her advocacy on behalf of other citizens of this great Empire State as well as for her humanitarian actions and achievements on behalf of people with ALS; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Debra Quinn.