LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Sophie Clarke upon the occasion of capturing the esteemed title of Sole Survivor on Survivor: South Pacific

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, by achieving outstanding success in physical as well as mental competitions, have inspired and brought pride to both the State of New York and their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Sophie Clarke upon the occasion of capturing the esteemed title of Sole Survivor on Survivor: South Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Survivor: South Pacific, filmed in the vicinity of Upolu, Samoa, was the 23rd season of the American CBS competitive reality television series Survivor, which premiered on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, and aired the finale on Sunday, December 18, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Sophie Clarke was named the winner in the final episode, defeating Benjamin "Coach" Wade and Albert Destrade in a 6-3-0 vote, walking away with the First Prize of $1 million; and

WHEREAS, When speaking out about the show and how it changed her, she recalls it was very nerve-wracking at times; she believed she had her finger on the pulse of the game, attempting to figure out the other player's motives; and

WHEREAS, A major part of the game centered on interpersonal relationships, alliances and deceit; one characteristic Sophie Clarke believes she has, which is being more of an observer than anything else, helped her to achieve her goal and win the game; and

WHEREAS, A Willsboro native, Sophie Clarke was the Valedictorian of the Willboro Central School Class of 2007; after which, she taught both Math and Biology in a small village in Kenya; that same year, she received the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York Leader of Tomorrow Award; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Sophie Clarke graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa at Middlebury College; while there, she served as President of the college's ski patrol; in 2009, prior to graduating, she studied abroad and worked at a soup kitchen in Moscow, Russia; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Sophie Clarke is enrolled in Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, Class of 2015; and

WHEREAS, The loving daughter of Thurston and Antonia Clarke, Sophie Clarke now stands with just pride in assessing her achievements, recognizing the value of her experience, the satisfaction of her labors and the joy of her accomplishments; she is appreciative of the support of her family and community, and eager to face the challenge of new experiences; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Sophie Clarke upon the occasion of capturing the esteemed title of Sole Survivor on Survivor: South Pacific; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sophie Clarke, Willsboro, New York.