

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Paralympian Ryan Chalmers of Churchville, New York, upon the occasion of completing his inspirational 3,000 mile journey

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to extend its full recognition and grateful tribute to the athletes of New York State who have dedicated their purposeful lives to athletic achievement and proudly represented their great State and Nation in Paralympic competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to join the Churchville, New York, community in honoring Ryan Chalmers, a young man of great skill, personal courage and unparalleled dedication, whose character and athletic achievements are world-renowned and personify the highest ideals of the American spirit; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to congratulate Paralympian Ryan Chalmers of Churchville, New York, upon the occasion of completing his inspirational 3,000 mile journey; and

WHEREAS, To cross the United States by car, foot or any other mode of transportation, you need a certain amount of stamina, dedication and daring; after 71 days on the road, Ryan Chalmers completed a 3,000 mile journey by wheelchair across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Chalmers left from Los Angeles, California, on April 6, 2013, and finished in Central Park in New York City on Saturday, June 15, 2013; his trek was to inspire others with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Completing around 50 miles a day and accumulating 14 flat tires, Ryan Chalmers, age 24, crossed 14 states on the coast-to-coast epic, before being welcomed to the finish by cheers; during the trip, he found himself going 65 mph on a particularly steep downhill stretch of road, which was one of the challenges that tested him to the limit; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Chalmers was born with spina bifida, which means he does not have complete use of his legs; he played basketball and participated in track and field as a child; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Chalmers focused on track as he aged, eventually representing the United States at the 2012 London Paralympics; he is a true asset to society; and

WHEREAS, A role model for all, Ryan Chalmers is a talented, dedicated athlete who has brought honor to his family, his coaches, and his community of friends who have encouraged his progress and commended his hard work; and

WHEREAS, A gifted athlete, Ryan Chalmers's character and achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who would aspire to such extraordinary success; and

WHEREAS, Many will only dream of completing this arduous cross country task; this young gifted athlete from the great State of New York, through his hard work and tenacious spirit, has made that vision a reality, and has proudly represented his country in competition among the world's finest athletes, an honor that gives just cause for his family, community and State to be exceedingly proud of his achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Paralympian Ryan Chalmers of Churchville, New York, upon the occasion of completing his inspirational 3,000 mile journey; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ryan Chalmers.