

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Paralympian Augusto Perez of Syracuse, New York, upon the occasion of his selection as a member of Team USA in the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games

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, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Paralympian Augusto Perez of Syracuse, New York, upon the occasion of his selection as a member of Team USA in the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games; he will be competing in the Nordic skiing event; and

WHEREAS, Augusto "Goose" Perez is one of the United States' most versatile Paralympic athletes, with impressive victories in wheelchair curling, Nordic skiing, and biathlon competition; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Syracuse, New York, Augusto Perez was born in Madrid, Spain, and came to the United States in 1991 to play soccer for his senior year of high school; he stayed when he was offered a scholarship from Paul Smith's College in Brighton, New York, ultimately receiving his bachelor's degree in Spanish, with a minor in education, from Le Moyne College, Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, Augusto Perez began his Paralympic career in wheelchair curling, having competed at both the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, and the Vancouver 2010 Games, where Team USA earned fourth; in 2008, he became the first wheelchair athlete to be named USA Curling Male Athlete of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Augusto Perez started Nordic skiing in 2011, and, at the 2014 U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing National Championships, he took 6th place in the 10-kilometer and 15-kilometer events, and 7th place in the 7.5 kilometer biathlon; and

WHEREAS, Always up for a new challenge, Augusto Perez has also competed in para-canoe and kayak, both of which will make their Paralympic Games debut at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games; and

WHEREAS, This intrepid competitor has had three bouts with a rare form of cancer, which have resulted in a hip disarticulation and amputation of his left leg; and

WHEREAS, When he is not competing, Augusto Perez enjoys target shooting, soccer, table tennis, tennis, canoeing and sailing; and

WHEREAS, Genuinely concerned for the welfare of others, this community-minded athlete volunteers as a Spanish tutor for high school and middle school students, is involved in cancer fundraisers, and works with youth with physical and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Augusto Perez and his wife, Brenda, are the proud parents of twins, daughter Ainoa and son Iker; and

WHEREAS, A role model for all, Augusto Perez 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, Augusto Perez's character and his many achievements stand as example and inspiration to all who would aspire to extraordinary success; and

WHEREAS, Many will only dream of competing on the world stage; through his hard work and tenacious spirit, Augusto Perez has not only made his dream a reality, he has also given just cause for his family, community and State to be proud of his achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

congratulate Paralympian Augusto Perez of Syracuse, New York, upon the occasion of his selection as a member of Team USA in the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Augusto Perez.