

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMENDING Victoria Holmes upon the occasion of her designation as a Distinguished Finalist in the 25th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, honoring the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Victoria Holmes upon the occasion of her designation as a Distinguished Finalist in the 25th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Holmes has distinguished herself as a young woman of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of community service, purposefulness of life, and sense of responsibility rarely achieved in youthful years; and

WHEREAS, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are designed to emphasize the importance our Nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Holmes, a resident of Corning, New York, and an eighth-grader at The Alternative School for Math and Science, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by receiving a 2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious award honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Upon learning her mother had leukemia, Victoria Holmes and her siblings had to move hundreds of miles away to live with relatives for months at a time; and

WHEREAS, Missing her mother terribly one night, Victoria Holmes awoke to her aunt coming into the room and wrapping her in a blanket to comfort her; she never forgot this significant moment, the blanket represented the love of her family; and

WHEREAS, Years later, Victoria Holmes decided to help improve the lives of families who have experienced a life altering event; she wanted to give others in similar situations the same kind of comfort by making blankets for them; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Holmes's efforts included spreading awareness of her project, collaborating with community partners and sorting donations; and

WHEREAS, It is this accomplished young woman's goal to provide two blankets per family, one for a child and one for the parents, so they can snuggle the same blanket while they are apart; and

WHEREAS, The success of the State of New York, the strength of our communities, and the vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Victoria Holmes, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Victoria Holmes, commending her for her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community service, recognizing the value of her labors and the promise of her future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations, with praise and pride, to commend Victoria Holmes for her achievements, and to extend to her the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Victoria Holmes.