

Senate Resolution No. 2811

**BY:** Senator KAMINSKY

**CONGRATULATING** Dunia Sibomana upon the occasion of capturing the 102-pound Division I wrestling title at the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championships on February 26, 2022

**WHEREAS,** Individual and team championships are highly sought after in high school sports; this Legislative Body commends rare athletic achievements and pays special recognition to those who pursue such excellence and become examples for the youth of this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** Athletic competition helps to enhance both the moral and physical development of young athletes, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the importance of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Dunia Sibomana upon the occasion of capturing the 102-pound Division I wrestling title at the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championships on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at the MVP Arena in Albany, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** In front of a capacity crowd and a fan base of family, friends and teammates, number three seed Dunia Sibomana earned a fall in 1:32 over his number one seed opponent from Chenango Forks High School, giving Long Beach High School its 17th state title; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to this monumental feat, Dunia Sibomana won his first three matches in the tournament by a combined score of 35-7; and

**WHEREAS,** An eighth-grade wrestler for the Long Beach Marines, Dunia Sibomana ended his season with an impressive overall record; and

**WHEREAS,** Dunia Sibomana's life has not always been so happy; when he was a

six-year-old, he and two of his family members were playing near Virunga National Park, a vast animal reserve, in the Congo in Central Africa, when a pack of wild chimpanzees attacked the children; and

**WHEREAS,** Fortunately, a park ranger found him and sought medical care; Dunia Sibomana lost the middle finger of his left hand and suffered life-altering facial injuries which made it very difficult for him to swallow or talk; and

**WHEREAS,** Dunia Siboman underwent a couple of preliminary surgeries in the Congo, however, the injuries were too intricate for the African hospitals; and

**WHEREAS,** Through the non-profit organization Smile Rescue Fund for Kids, Dunia Sibomana was brought to the United States in November of

2015 for more advanced reparative procedures under the care of Dr. Alexander Dagum at Stony Brook University Hospital; since then, he has undergone 14 surgeries to restore his appearance and facial function, all free of charge; and

**WHEREAS,** Dunia Sibomana was adopted by Long Beach Assistant Wrestling Coach Miguel Rodriguez and his wife, Marissa, and began his wrestling career with the Gladiators youth wrestling program where he quickly became a star; in 2019, he became a permanent United States resident; and

**WHEREAS,** Due to the tireless efforts of his family, surgeons and Smile Rescue Fund for Kids, Dunia Sibomana's life has truly been transformed; today, he is an honor student and enjoys playing soccer and running track, as well as winning wrestling matches; and

**WHEREAS,** In a sport such as wrestling, which demands athletic prowess, speed and agility, Coach Ray Adams worked hard to hone the skills of this champion, teaching this outstanding athlete lessons which will prove invaluable both on and off the mat; and

**WHEREAS,** Dunia Sibomana has clearly utilized dedication, determination and teamwork in providing a lasting contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of his school; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Dunia Sibomana upon the occasion of capturing the 102-pound Division I wrestling title at the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championships; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dunia Sibomana and Coach Ray Adams.