

**BY:** Senator HARCKHAM

**MOURNING** the death of Nick Springer, gold-medal winning Paralympian, inspirational speaker and devoted member of his community

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding athletes who distinguish themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Nick Springer, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** Nick Springer of Croton, New York, died on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at the age of 35; and

**WHEREAS,** Born to Nancy and Gary Springer, Nick was an active and fun-loving child who dreamed of playing hockey for the New York Rangers; unfortunately, at the young age of 14, he contracted Meningococcal Meningitis, and consequently, had both legs amputated above the knees and both arms to mid-forearm; and

**WHEREAS,** Never one to quit or give up, Nick Springer continued to be active, and quickly learned how to use his limbs in a different way; he loved to swim and scuba dive and during high school, became involved with wheelchair sports such as snowboarding, sled hockey and rugby; and

**WHEREAS,** After graduating from Croton-Harmon High School, Nick Springer continued to play Quadriplegic Wheelchair Rugby which was documented in the 2005 documentary "Murderball"; and

**WHEREAS,** Nick Springer quickly became an international star, and was a leading member of Team USA, helping them to capture six medals, including gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and four World Cup golds; at the 2012 London Paralympics, he and Team USA took the bronze after falling to arch-rival Canada by one point in the semi-final game; and

**WHEREAS,** For more than a decade, Nick Springer lived in Phoenix, Arizona, where he helped rebuild the Ability 360 Phoenix Heat wheelchair rugby club team which went on to win three consecutive national titles; and

**WHEREAS,** In May of 2010, Nick Springer earned his degree in communications from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, and became a public speaker, using his charismatic good nature and personal stories to motivate and persuade audiences about the power of sports in disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** Nick Springer spent the last few years consulting with Novartis, which was purchased by the international pharmaceutical

company GSK; in this capacity, he traveled throughout the United States and across the globe, speaking to health officials, education organizations, and others about the need for meningitis vaccination; and

**WHEREAS,** Through his tireless efforts, Nick Springer was instrumental in passing legislation to support vaccinations against the virus; and

**WHEREAS,** Nick Springer also served as a spokesperson for the National Meningitis Association (NMA), which his mother helped found, and Honorary Chairman of the NMA's annual gala, "Give Kids A Shot"; and

**WHEREAS,** When he was not working or helping someone, Nick Springer continued to be actively involved with the Phoenix Heat and played occasional tournaments with a Philadelphia team; and

**WHEREAS,** Predeceased by his mother, Nancy, Nick Springer is survived by his father, Gary, and his partner, Elizabeth; one sister, Olivia (Kevin); and one nephew, Jackson, as well as numerous other relatives, friends and athletes who were truly motivated by his passion, kindness and determination; and

**WHEREAS,** A gifted athlete and even better man, Nick Springer was a renowned role model in the sport of wheelchair rugby; his character and achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who would aspire to success; and

**WHEREAS,** Nick Springer was truly one of a kind; with a strong, yet humble spirit, he excelled at everything he did, and never allowed his disability to deter him from accomplishing his goals; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Nick Springer leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Nick Springer, gold-medal winning Paralympian, inspirational speaker and devoted member of his community; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Nick Springer.