

BY: Senator MAYER

COMMENDING Ellie Zimmerman upon the occasion of her designation as a Distinguished Honoree in the 26th 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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Ellie Zimmerman upon the occasion of her designation as a Distinguished Honoree in the 26th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program; and

WHEREAS, Ellie Zimmerman 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, Ellie Zimmerman, a resident of Purchase, New York, and senior at Rye Country Day School has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by receiving a 2021 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, 18-year-old Ellie Zimmerman is the founder and CEO of an organization that has recruited thousands of high school students across the country to provide technology assistance to more than 180 nonprofit organizations, as well as to teachers, parents and students struggling with remote learning; and

WHEREAS, During the summer after 9th grade, Ellie Zimmerman tried to find an internship where she could apply her experience in photography and graphic design, but for a variety of reasons, found that to be very difficult; and

WHEREAS, Soon after, she met other teenagers who complained of similar difficulties in securing internships; she set out to find a solution and interviewed several local nonprofit organizations and learned that all needed help with one technology task or another, tasks

that would be ideal projects for tech-savvy teen volunteers; and

WHEREAS, With prize money from a social entrepreneurship competition, Ellie Zimmerman filed for nonprofit status; she then built a website and began advertising for high school students interested in volunteering and for charitable organizations in need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, The response was overwhelming; to date, more than 8,000 students have signed up to help nonprofit organizations with website design, programming, social media marketing, photo management and other technology projects; and

WHEREAS, Ellie Zimmerman's network also offers a tech hotline, lesson plans, and homework assistance to help teachers, parents and students adapt to the new COVID-19 academic environment; and

WHEREAS, As a National honoree, Ellie Zimmerman received a \$5,000 scholarship award, an engraved gold medallion, a crystal trophy, and a \$5,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation for a charitable organization of her choice; 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 Ellie Zimmerman, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Ellie Zimmerman for her outstanding record of volunteerism, 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 Ellie Zimmerman 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 Ellie Zimmerman.