Senate Resolution No. 1504

BY: Senator GALLIVAN

HONORING Gretchen Burden upon the occasion of her designation as Educator of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated on March 19, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those distinguished citizens who devote their life's work and purpose to service to others, contributing greatly to the welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Gretchen Burden upon the occasion of her designation as Educator of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its 53rd Annual Awards Gala on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Samuel's Grande Manor in Williamsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Gretchen Burden, with 38 years of experience as a speech-language pathologist, has dedicated her career to supporting children with complex communication needs through individualized and relevant intervention strategies; and

WHEREAS, With a philosophy that speech therapy should be both fun and purposeful, Gretchen Burden works diligently and creatively to engage children while directly supporting their academic and functional needs; and

WHEREAS, When children struggle to express themselves, Gretchen Burden uses her depth of experience and passion for helping others to assist in finding an appropriate and meaningful path forward, unlocking new skills and a variety of means of communication for children along the way; and

WHEREAS, Truly making a difference in the lives of many, Gretchen Burden's work inspires her students to take risks, practice pertinent skills, and discover their own voices, opening many doors and unlocking countless possibilities for children and their families in the field of communication; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Gretchen Burden has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Gretchen Burden upon the occasion of her designation as Educator of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on March 19, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to Gretchen Burden.