

Senate Resolution No. 1951

**BY:** Senator RHOADS

**HONORING** Kayla Lederer upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York State Citizenship Award

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor the young adults of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements best 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 honor Kayla Lederer upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York State Citizenship Award, to be recognized on May 19, 2026, at East Meadow High School in East Meadow, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The New York State Citizenship Award is bestowed upon students who embody the highest principles of civic responsibility, integrity, and dedication to the common good, serving as role models who strengthen the fabric of their school communities through their actions, leadership, and example; and

**WHEREAS,** True citizenship is demonstrated not only through academic success, but through a steadfast commitment to service, ethical leadership, respect for others, and an unwavering sense of responsibility toward one's school and community; and

**WHEREAS,** Kayla Lederer has exemplified these ideals through her consistent demonstration of respect, accountability, perseverance, and compassion, reflecting the essential values of engaged and responsible citizenship in both her academic and extracurricular pursuits; and

**WHEREAS,** As a student leader who understands the importance of civic engagement within a school community, Kayla Lederer has embraced opportunities to serve, lead, and contribute meaningfully to the shared well-being of her peers; and

**WHEREAS,** Kayla Lederer has demonstrated a strong commitment to student voice and school governance through her historic role as the first student representative on her district's Board of Education, where she exhibited maturity, insight, and a thoughtful approach to representing the interests and perspectives of her fellow students; and

**WHEREAS,** In this capacity, Kayla Lederer has shown that citizenship includes active participation in democratic processes, respectful communication, and the willingness to engage in constructive dialogue for the betterment of the school community; and

**WHEREAS,** Kayla Lederer further strengthened her record of civic responsibility through her service as Class President from grades 9 through 11, where she worked to represent her classmates, foster school

spirit, and contribute to a positive and inclusive school climate grounded in mutual respect and shared responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, As a Peer Leader, Kayla Lederer has demonstrated the importance of mentorship as a core element of citizenship by guiding freshmen students, helping them navigate academic expectations, and supporting their social and emotional adjustment to high school life; and

**WHEREAS**, Through this mentorship role, Kayla Lederer has exemplified the principle that citizenship involves uplifting others, fostering belonging, and taking active responsibility for the success and well-being of younger students within the school community; and

**WHEREAS**, Kayla Lederer's commitment to citizenship is further reflected in her athletic leadership, where she has served as Captain of the basketball team, leading by example through discipline, teamwork, and perseverance while guiding her team to County and Long Island championships; and

**WHEREAS**, As an All-Conference athlete in basketball, field hockey, and lacrosse, Kayla Lederer has demonstrated that citizenship extends to sportsmanship, integrity in competition, and respect for teammates, opponents, and the rules of the game; and

**WHEREAS**, Kayla Lederer's involvement in Athletes Helping Athletes further underscores her dedication to peer support and leadership development, as she actively contributes to mentoring younger students through shared athletic and personal experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, Graduating in the top 5% of her class, Kayla Lederer is an AP Capstone Diploma recipient and AP Scholar with Distinction, demonstrating that academic excellence and civic responsibility can work in concert to prepare a student for meaningful leadership and service; and

**WHEREAS**, Kayla Lederer balances her many responsibilities, including academic achievement, leadership positions, athletic commitments, and a part-time job, with resilience, discipline, and a strong sense of duty, reflecting the everyday practice of responsible citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, The essence of citizenship lies in the willingness to act with integrity, to serve selflessly, to respect institutional responsibilities, and to contribute positively to society, qualities which Kayla Lederer has consistently demonstrated through both word and deed; and

**WHEREAS**, Kayla Lederer's example affirms that citizenship is an active and ongoing commitment, requiring engagement in school life, participation in governance, dedication to community-building, and a readiness to lead with fairness and purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, As Kayla Lederer looks forward to her next chapter, she is poised to continue developing her leadership abilities, advancing her academic pursuits, and contributing meaningfully to every community of

which she is a part; and

**WHEREAS,** Her record of service and leadership demonstrates that responsible citizenship extends beyond individual achievement, encompassing a lifelong dedication to contributing to the common good; and

**WHEREAS,** Poised with a great sense of enthusiasm and purpose, Kayla Lederer stands honorably, with just pride in her accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, deeply appreciative of the guidance and support provided by her teachers, mentors, coaches, and parents; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kayla Lederer upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York State Citizenship Award; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kayla Lederer.