

Senate Resolution No. 2025

BY: Senator RHOADS

HONORING Samantha Hecker upon the occasion of his 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 Samantha Hecker upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York State Citizenship Award, to be recognized on Monday, June 8, 2026; 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 communities through their actions and example; and

WHEREAS, True citizenship is demonstrated not only through academic success, but through a steadfast commitment to service, ethical leadership, and an unwavering sense of responsibility toward others; and

WHEREAS, As a student who understands the importance of civic engagement, Samantha Hecker contributed meaningfully to her school and broader community, embracing opportunities to lead, collaborate, and uplift those around her; and

WHEREAS, Samantha Hecker has proven herself to be an intelligent, compassionate, and driven student leader; and

WHEREAS, Samantha Hecker has been involved in a variety of nursing related pursuits, including earning her EMT certification and completing rigorous training in patient assessment, emergency response, and medical intervention; she also has volunteered in the emergency department at St. Joseph Hospital, showcasing her passion and dedication to the healthcare field; and

WHEREAS, A well-rounded student, Samantha Hecker has been the treasurer of both the National Honor Society and Community Service Club and served as a Peer Advisor in the St. Jude Leadership Society, where she exceeded fundraising expectations by raising over \$10,000 for pediatric cancer research

WHEREAS, Through these activities, Samantha Hecker has demonstrated not only her aptitude, but also the cooperative spirit and shared responsibility that are hallmarks of exemplary citizenship; and

WHEREAS, A shining example for her peers and our youth, Samantha Hecker was appointed as the first Ex Officio Student Representative to her district's Board of Education where she serves as a liaison between students and administrators, elevating student voices in policy discussions; and

WHEREAS, Academically, Samantha Hecker has challenged herself with a rigorous curriculum, rich in research and challenging courses, and currently maintains an impressive GPA; her intellectual curiosity, combined with her collaborative spirit, makes her a valued peer in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Samantha Hecker is a member of honor societies, including the Spanish Honors Society and the National Honors Society; her involvement in these organizations reflects not only her academic achievements and the respect she has earned from faculty, but also her ongoing commitment to service, leadership, and civic-minded values; and

WHEREAS, The essence of citizenship lies in the willingness to act with integrity, to serve selflessly, and to contribute positively to society, qualities which Samantha Hecker has demonstrated through both word and deed; and

WHEREAS, From volunteering at her local JCC through the Teens as Leaders program, to working as a camp counselor, babysitter, and assistant at a small business, Samantha Hecker consistently shows maturity, dependability, and a willingness to serve; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the selfless dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Samantha Hecker has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, As Samantha Hecker looks forward to her next chapter, she is sure to continue fostering her leadership skills, advancing her academic achievements, and making a meaningful difference in her community; and

WHEREAS, Her example affirms that responsible citizenship is a lifelong endeavor, one that extends beyond the classroom and into every aspect of personal and professional life; and

WHEREAS, Poised with a great sense of enthusiasm and purpose, this scholar now stands honorably, with just pride in her accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by her teachers, mentors, and parents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Samantha Hecker 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 Samantha Hecker.

