

2013-J2524

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Luke Lunday upon the occasion of his designation as the Grand Prize winner of the 2013 Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life essay contest by Major League Baseball, on April 18, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those youth of today and leaders of tomorrow whose character and accomplishments best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the dedication and commitment of our young people who, by distinguishing themselves through excellence in scholastic competition, have inspired and brought pride to our majestic Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Luke Lunday upon the occasion of his designation as the Grand Prize winner of the 2013 Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life essay contest by Major League Baseball; his superb achievement was announced on Thursday, April 18, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball's (MLB) Breaking Barriers program, initiated in 1997 in partnership with Scholastic Inc., challenges youth to write about how they have overcome barriers or obstacles using the values of determination, courage, and persistence embodied by the late Jackie Robinson, who, in 1947, became the first black man to play in major league baseball; and

WHEREAS, Developed and guided by Jackie Robinson's daughter, Sharon Robinson, the program seeks to educate people while keeping the legendary sports and civil rights icon's memory alive; this year's contest drew a record 18,700 submissions from across the country, and the

winner were announced right after the 66th anniversary of the day Jackie Robinson broke the league's color barrier on April 15, 1947; and WHEREAS, Luke Lunday is a fifth-grade student at West Point Middle School; he resides in West Point, New York, the home of the United States Military Academy; and WHEREAS, Luke Lunday's grand prize-winning essay described his gritty determination, at age six, to learn to ride a bicycle without using special equipment or training wheels, despite having cerebral palsy; by the age of eight, he had accomplished this feat; and WHEREAS, For his win, Luke Lunday received a state-of-the-art laptop, a trip to the 2013 All-Star Game at Citi Field in New York City, and a trip to the 2013 World Series, in addition to garnering a laptop for his teacher and Breaking Barriers T-shirts for his classmates; and WHEREAS, Luke Lunday also had the honor of reading his essay before Sharon Robinson and his entire school, earning additional praise for his courage from Sharon Robinson; and WHEREAS, It is appropriate to celebrate the educational accomplishments of remarkable schools, students, and teachers in this great Empire State; Luke Lunday is indeed such a student; and WHEREAS, The designation of Luke Lunday as the Grand Prize winner of the 2013 Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life essay contest has clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of West Point Middle School; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Luke Lunday upon the occasion of his designation as the Grand Prize winner of the 2013 Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life essay contest by Major League Baseball, and to extend to him 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 Luke Lunday.