

## 2013-J3816

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Akash Mehta, of Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of his designation as a Distinguished Finalist in the 19th 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, Akash Mehta has distinguished himself as a young man of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of community service, purposefulness of life, and sense of responsibility rarely achieved in youthful years; and

WHEREAS, Akash Mehta, 16, of Brooklyn, New York, and a sophomore at Saint Ann's School, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by being named a 2014 Prudential Spirit of Community Distinguished Finalist; 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, As a Distinguished Finalist, Akash Mehta will receive an engraved bronze medallion; and

WHEREAS, Akash Mehta founded "Kids for a Better Future" when he was 11 years old, and has since raised more than \$50,000 to support a number of projects around the globe; he raised the funds with help from a group of volunteers by hosting walk-a-thons, bake sales and other fund-raising events, and has donated the money to help build a school for girls in Afghanistan, provide resources for homeless children in New York City,

and support former child soldiers in the Congo; 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 Akash Mehta, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Akash Mehta, commending him for his outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community service and recognizing the value of his labors and the promise of his future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations, with praise and pride, to commend Akash Mehta for his achievements and to extend to him the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being, fully confident of his response to the challenges of a promising future and appreciative of the model he represents for all young people of the Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Akash Mehta.