

2013-J3954

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending St. Baldrick's Foundation on 14 years of raising money for children's cancer, and honoring co-Founder John Bender for special recognition

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals and organizations it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend St. Baldrick's Foundation on 14 years of raising money for children's cancer, and to honor co-Founder John Bender for special recognition on Saturday, March 22, 2014, at its Annual Rockville Centre event, at St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre, New York; and

WHEREAS, St. Baldrick's Foundation is a childhood cancer charity, funding research to help find cures for children with cancer; the Foundation raises money for childhood cancer research primarily through head-shaving events; and

WHEREAS, Volunteers, sponsored by family, friends and employers, shave their heads in solidarity with children who typically lose their hair during cancer treatment; this auspicious event takes place all over the world as far away as Japan, Hong Kong, Argentina, England and Bermuda, as well as in all 50 States; and

WHEREAS, Since 2000, St. Baldrick's Foundation volunteers have organized nearly 4,200 head-shaving events and shaved over 190,500 heads, raising over \$118 million for life-saving childhood cancer research; and

WHEREAS, The St. Baldrick's Foundation became a non-profit organization in 2005, and makes grants to research organizations which meet criteria and share the Foundation's commitment and emphasis on research;

and

WHEREAS, St. Baldrick's Foundation research grants help fill crucial funding gaps at medical institutions where children are treated for cancer, ensuring the finest care for every child; since its inception, St. Baldrick's has awarded over 100 Fellow and Scholar awards to develop the childhood cancer research experts of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, John Bender, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, began his esteemed career at St. Paul Reinsurance and is now President and Chief Operating Officer for Allied World Reinsurance in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, A native of Long Island, New York, John Bender is proud to call himself Irish-American; along with his siblings, he spent many childhood summers on his uncle's farm in County Roscommon, Ireland, where he learned the value of hard work and the art of a good story; and

WHEREAS, An active member in his local communities for the last 20 years, John Bender enjoys spending quality time with his family and friends, playing golf or just reading a good novel; and

WHEREAS, John Bender helped weave the St. Baldrick's story together when he took up co-founder Tim Kenny's challenge to give back; drawing inspiration from Enda McDonnell's mane of hair, it was John who paired the idea of shaving heads with helping children fighting cancer; and

WHEREAS, Since then, John Bender has distinguished himself as the "Iron Man" of St. Baldrick's, being the only person in the history of the Foundation to have been shorn every year, including a second visit to clippers in 2003; and

WHEREAS, An active recruiter for the cause, John Bender is always scouting new events, sponsors and shaves; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Alanna Devine, and their three children, Shannon, Brady and Casey, all of whom look forward

to John's annual shaving, and feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when an event

of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend St. Baldrick's Foundation on 14 years of raising money for children's cancer, and to honor co-Founder John Bender for special recognition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Bender, co-Founder, St. Baldrick's Foundation.