

2013-J4136

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring United States Chess Master Joshua Colas for his outstanding national and international accomplishments in the realm of chess

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 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 United States Chess Master Joshua Colas for his outstanding national and international accomplishments in the realm of chess; in December 2013 he won the National Scholastic Chess Championships in the 10th Grade Division in Orlando, Florida, capturing his sixth national title; and

WHEREAS, The middle son of Guy and Yanick Colas, Joshua Colas is a sophomore at White Plains High School; he is currently the New York City and New York State Chess Champion; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Colas became interested in chess at the age of seven when his father took him to the World Open chess tournament in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and he saw many young children playing the game; he soon got involved with "Chess-In-The-Schools"; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Colas participated in his first chess tournament in October 2005 where the second-grade student finished 10 out of 23; by the end of November 2006, he had completed his 100th recorded rated win; and

WHEREAS, This impressive young man continued on his winning path; in December 2008 he lead his elementary school team in winning the National Team Championship in the 5th Grade Division, and tied for first place in the K6 National Blitz Championships at Disney World; and

WHEREAS, In March 2009, Joshua Colas went undefeated and won the Westchester County Chess Championship; he became a certified Chess Expert in May of the same year when his rating surpassed 2000; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Colas's exceptional abilities led him to win the 2009 National Youth Championship in both the K9 section and the K12 Blitz section; since 2009 he has been named to the All-American Scholastic Chess Team annually; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Colas became a certified Chess Master in December 2010, the youngest African American Chess Master in history; and

WHEREAS, Upon winning the prestigious 2012 Susan Polgar World Open in Chicago, Illinois, Joshua Colas was awarded a full scholarship to Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, the nation's top chess college; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Colas has competed on the world stage, participating in chess tournaments in Trinidad and Tobago, and Canada, and representing the United States as part of Team USA in Greece, Brazil, and Slovenia; in 2013, he qualified for the 2013 World Youth Chess Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Colas's commitment to excellence is without parallel; awarded the title of Life Master by the United States Chess Federation in 2012, he is determined to become the first American-born Black Chess Grandmaster before he graduates from college; and

WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, Joshua Colas now stands honorably, with just pride in his accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by his teachers, coaches and parents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor United States Chess Master Joshua Colas for his outstanding national and international accomplishments in the realm of chess, and to wish him continued success throughout his school years and beyond; and

be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joshua Colas.