

2013-K1041

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Paul Schaus of North Tonawanda, New York, and the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team upon the occasion of capturing a Gold Medal at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to extend its full recognition and grateful tribute to the athletes of New York State who have dedicated their purposeful lives to athletic achievement and proudly represented their great State and Nation in Paralympic competition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Paul Schaus of North Tonawanda, New York, and the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team upon the occasion of capturing a Gold Medal at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Shayba Arena, Sochi, Russia, by defeating Russia by a score of 1-0; and

WHEREAS, With the victory, Team USA, made up of many military veterans, becomes the first team to win back-to-back gold medals in the Paralympics; this gold medal is the third for the United States since 2002; and

WHEREAS, The athletic talent displayed by this team is due in great part to the efforts of Head Coach Jeff Sauer, a legendary college hockey coach, respected for his ability to develop potential into excellence; and

WHEREAS, Paul Schaus, who lost both legs in Afghanistan in 2009 by an IED, has been a member of the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team since 2012; and

WHEREAS, In January 2014, 26 year-old Paul Schaus helped Team USA win two out of three games against Canada in Indian Trail, North Carolina;

and

WHEREAS, Paul Schaus also contributed to Team USA's second-place finish at the December 2013 World Sledge Hockey Challenge in Toronto, Ontario; and

WHEREAS, A leader both on and off the ice, Paul Schaus faces his challenges head on; he is the epitome of work ethic and commitment; and

WHEREAS, A role model for all, Paul Schaus is a talented, dedicated athlete who has brought honor to his community, and his family, coaches, and friends who have encouraged his progress and commended his hard work; and

WHEREAS, A gifted athlete, Paul Schaus' character and his many achievements stand as example and inspiration to all who would aspire to extraordinary success; and

WHEREAS, Many will only dream of competing on the world stage; through his hard work and tenacious spirit, Paul Schaus has not only made his dream a reality, he has also given just cause for his family, community and State to be proud of his achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Paul Schaus of North Tonawanda, New York, and the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team upon the occasion of capturing a Gold Medal at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Paul Schaus and Coach Jeff Sauer.