

## 2013-J4902

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Bonnie Youth Club upon the occasion of holding its 5th Annual Bonnie Opening Day Parade and Ceremony on April 12, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Bonnie Youth Club upon the occasion of holding its 5th Annual Bonnie Opening Day Parade and Ceremony on April 12, 2014, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Bonnie Youth Club was founded in 1949 by Al Bonnie Sr. and his two sons, Al Jr. and Joe; for the past 65 years, this fine all-volunteer organization has been helping young children develop into outstanding adults by imparting life-long values that prepare student-athletes for success in the future; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Bonnie Youth Club welcomes over 400 children between five and 21 years of age to the Bonnie Baseball program, in which children learn the fundamentals of baseball, while experiencing the camaraderie and excitement of America's favorite pastime; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to helping its young players, most of whom are from minority and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, the Bonnie Youth Club uses baseball as a catalyst for imparting academic, social, and

emotional skills to young people who might not otherwise be engaged; and WHEREAS, In conjunction with Bonnie Baseball, the Bonnie Youth Club's SUPPORT, SERVICE, AND SUCCESS, program, initiated in 1999, emphasizes the importance of education, while assisting with high school and college placement; and

WHEREAS, Alumni of the Bonnie Youth Club have gone on to attend top colleges and universities, and lead successful lives, always remembering the lessons learned through this esteemed institution; and

WHEREAS, In so effectively carrying out its mission, the Bonnie Youth Club has demonstrated the value of youth baseball in helping young people become healthy, productive and responsible citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Bonnie Youth Club upon the occasion of holding its 5th Annual Bonnie Opening Day Parade and Ceremony; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Bonnie Youth Club.