

## 2013-J4998

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John Robinson upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley

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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John Robinson upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at the Franklin Plaza Ballroom in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities to lead happy and fulfilling lives; rooted in a philosophy of self-determination, the Center offers many services including advocacy, peer counseling, and facilitates access to housing and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Beacon Leadership Award is granted annually to those few individuals and businesses which have demonstrated their commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities; honorees have each in their own way helped make the community a more welcoming place for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, John Robinson is the Managing Partner and CEO of Our Ability Inc., a company owned and operated by people with disabilities to support people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Born with congenital amputations, John Robinson has through-

out his life worked to raise awareness of the strengths and challenges facing people with disabilities; he is a motivational speaker as well as a video executive producer on numerous award-winning productions for Public Broadcasting and the web; during the past two years, he has traveled from Australia to the White House discussing the obstacles people with disabilities face and how he himself has overcome them; and WHEREAS, John Robinson is the subject of the national documentary, "Get Off Your Knees: The John Robinson Story"; he also wrote his autobiography, GET OFF YOUR KNEES: A STORY OF FAITH, COURAGE, AND DETERMINATION; furthermore, in 2001, he was selected to carry the Olympic torch as it passed through Albany, New York, on its way to Salt Lake City for the 2002 Winter Olympics; and

WHEREAS, John Robinson has continued to be a staunch advocate for equality and understanding of people with disabilities, embodying the spirit of the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley with its mission of Eliminating Barriers and Inspiring Opportunities for People with Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, John Robinson has been an enduring voice in the community for equal rights for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which this remarkable man has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John Robinson upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Robinson.