

2013-J4974

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the New York Regional Offices of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the New York Regional Offices of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, to be celebrated at a special Dinner on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at the Mohawk Valley office; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; finding missing children, and assisting victims of abduction and sexual exploitation as well as their families and the professionals who serve them; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Rochester, New York, businesses, child welfare agencies and community leaders responded to the abduction of Adam Walsh by forming the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center; this center merged with NCMEC in 1990 and became its New York regional office (NCMEC/NY); the Sara Ann Wood Rescue Center of Utica, New York, merged with NCMEC/NY in 1995 to become the Center's Mohawk Valley Office; in 2006, the Buffalo, New York, office opened; and in 2011, an office was established in Saratoga Springs, New York, to offer services to children, families, and professionals in the Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, NCMEC/NY offers prevention, internet safety, and mandated reporter education programs to families, law enforcement, attorneys, and other professionals concerning missing and exploited children; in addition, these dedicated professionals provide technical assistance on missing children's cases, distribute posters of missing children in targeted areas across the nation, and offer a state-of-the-art training facility for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Every day in the United States, 2,200 children are reported missing; one in seven children ages 10-17 are sexually solicited online; and one in five girls and one in ten boys will be sexually victimized before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, In New York State, approximately 20,000 children are reported missing annually; and

WHEREAS, The hardworking personnel of NCMEC/NY make a difference every day; in 2013 they aided in the recovery of 1,212 children, distributed nearly 532,000 posters of missing children, and helped to educate nearly 100,000 individuals about this complex and multifaceted issue; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they 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 commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the New York Regional Offices of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Mohawk Valley Office of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.