

2015-J74

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John D. Kemp upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Dole Leadership Award on December 14, 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John D. Kemp upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Dole Leadership Award by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas on Sunday, December 14, 2014; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award recognizes an individual or organization whose public leadership inspires others, and who have made positive impacts on the lives of people around the world; a tireless advocate for disability rights, John D. Kemp joins former South African President Nelson Mandela and former United States President George H.W. Bush as past recipients of this award; and

WHEREAS, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Viscardi Center since 2011, John D. Kemp holds degrees from Georgetown University and the Washburn University School of Law; he has dedicated his life to improving the quality of life for all people with disabilities, building leaders of tomorrow and contributing members of society today; and

WHEREAS, The Viscardi Center, which is located on Willets Road in Albertson, New York, is a network of non-profit organizations that educates, employs and empowers children and adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Active within the community he so ably serves, John D. Kemp has been a board member, chairman and chief executive officer of several disability and nonprofit organizations; he has served on the Medicaid Commission and the U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on Persons With Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, John D. Kemp co-founded the American Association of People With Disabilities, and in 2001 became a partner at the Washington, D.C. law firm Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, P.C.; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2012, he was asked to serve on the state's Ready Commission, which prepares to maintain health care, transportation, communication and energy services in future disasters; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which John D. Kemp has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for John D. Kemp and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John D. Kemp upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Dole Leadership Award on December 14, 2014; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John D. Kemp.