

## 2015-J1425

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mike Knowlton upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Good Neighbor Award by the Unadilla Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mike Knowlton upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Good Neighbor Award by the Unadilla Chamber of Commerce to be celebrated at its Annual Dinner on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at the Unadilla First United Methodist Church, Unadilla, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mike Knowlton was born to Lila and the late Gilbert Knowlton; in 1975, he graduated from the Unadilla Valley Central High School, New Berlin, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mike and Deb Knowlton were married in 1979; for 20 of their 36 years of marriage, the couple has provided both respite care for the elderly and foster care for children; and

WHEREAS, After assisting his daughter with the Youth For Christ (YFC) group, a para-ministry non-profit organization, at the Unadilla Elementary School, Mike Knowlton became a YFC Volunteer for seven years; for the last three years, he has been a member of the YFC ministry staff; and

WHEREAS, Due to Mike Knowlton's persistence, the YFC Teen Center came to fruition in 2013, serving youths from the age of 10-18 by providing a variety of activities and a safe environment for young people to social-

ize with friends; and

WHEREAS, Under Mike Knowlton's faithful leadership, the YFC Teen Center offers individuals an array of games such as ping pong, pool, arcade basketball, and gaga ball, as well as a 16-station video game room and special movie viewings; and

WHEREAS, The Center also provides several instruments for youths to play, including a drum set, guitar, and piano keyboard; during the summer, the kids have access to a large field on the grounds to play volleyball and soccer; and

WHEREAS, In addition to fun and games, the YFC Teen Center presents special programs and speakers, as well as Bible study for its eager students; and

WHEREAS, The members of the YFC Teen Center have hosted a variety of fundraisers, such as both pancake and spaghetti suppers; upcoming events include a Talent Show on Saturday, April 18, 2015, and a 5-K Run/Walk for all ages on Saturday, April 25; and

WHEREAS, For the past 10 years, Mike Knowlton has been a member of the support staff for the YFC week-long bike trip held in August of each year; and

WHEREAS, Besides his involvement with YFC, Mike Knowlton is employed as a cook at the Head Start in Unadilla; prior to this position, he was a Head Start bus driver, and a district sales manager for the BINGHAMTON PRESS; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Deb, his three children, Sarah (Jason), Matt, and Chris, four adopted children, Alan, Eligh, Nick, and Xavier, and one granddaughter, Lily, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Mike Knowlton, and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individ-

uals and 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 honor Mike Knowlton upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Good Neighbor Award by the Unadilla Chamber of Commerce; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mike Knowlton.