

2015-J4007

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Alex Smith upon the occasion of his impressive musical performance at Super Bowl 50

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in acknowledging its esteemed residents who have distinguished themselves in their profession and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Alex Smith, of Peekskill, New York, gained national recognition as he accompanied renowned vocalist Lady Gaga as she performed the National Anthem at Super Bowl 50, played on February 7, 2016, at Levi's Stadium in California; and

WHEREAS, Alex Smith attended Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and earned a master's degree in jazz from SUNY Purchase; and

WHEREAS, Alex Smith is a music teacher at Soundview Preparatory School in Yorktown Heights and offers private lessons throughout Westchester and at his New Canaan, Connecticut piano studio; and

WHEREAS, Alex Smith also performs with Brian Newman, with whom he attended the Conservatory of Music, at Gramercy Park Hotel and at the Roxy Hotel in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, It was through the Brian Newman quintet that Alex Smith first performed with Lady Gaga several years ago, on the 2011 ABC special "A Very Gaga Thanksgiving;" and

WHEREAS, The quintet then played on the Lady Gaga/Tony Bennett duet album "Cheek to Cheek" and toured North America and Europe with the duo this past summer; and

WHEREAS, Alex Smith learned he would be accompanying Lady Gaga for her Super Bowl 50 performance just a few weeks before the big event; he practiced the song blind-folded, at double-speed, and in any variation he could think of, estimating that he practiced it several hundred times in the week before; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 112 million people watched the performance, which was extremely well-received; Alex Smith and Lady Gaga shared a jubilant embrace following the song, which was widely viewed after Lady Gaga posted it on social media; and

WHEREAS, Alex Smith has inspired his students and fellow musicians with his extraordinary talent and impressive success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Alex Smith upon the occasion of his impressive musical performance at Super Bowl 50; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alex Smith.