

## 2015-J4097

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Evans Family for special recognition, in conjunction with the observance of March 2016, as National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month

WHEREAS, It is important 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 individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is justly proud to commend and designate special recognition upon the Evans family of Galway, New York; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by an idea by Shamus Evans, Shaun, Nichole, Shamus and Simon Evans created the "Power to Push" charity run to give children like Shamus with cerebral palsy the feeling of running by raising funds for Ainsley's Angels of America, a nonprofit organization that gives individuals with disabilities the chance to participate in endurance sports; and

WHEREAS, The "running chariot" is a running stroller specially designed for those with disabilities to give them and their families access to places they have never been able to go before such as hiking trails and bike paths; and

WHEREAS, Shaun Evans, a gifted marathon runner, pushed 9-year-old Shamus in a "running chariot" 60 straight days in a coast-to-coast trek across the entire United States of America while running 50 to 60 miles a day for a total of 3,201 miles, a journey from Washington State to New York; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York celebrates the triumphs made by the Evans family which raised over \$100,000 and donated approximately two dozen running chariots to families along their route throughout their 60-day run; and

WHEREAS, A positive recreation experience can invigorate the mind, body, and soul and is a source of positive energy in the rehabilitation process; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with disabilities through recreational and athletic activities, the Evans family has touched the lives of other families throughout the country by their dedication, support and example; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional family stands behind its mission that no one should be left behind because of a disability; it is possible to remove boundaries, fulfill dreams, enhance self-esteem, and empower youth with disabilities through participation in sport and interactive activities; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that individuals and families of such benevolent aims, and which have achieved notable success and accomplishments, are celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious conditions that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to acknowledge the Evans Family in conjunction with the observance of March 2016, as National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Cerebral Palsy is a broad diagnostic term used to describe a problem with movement and posture due to damage or abnormalities in the brain that makes certain activities difficult; it is the most common motor disorder and the second most common disability found in children; and

WHEREAS, After this outstanding accomplishment, the Evans Family is destined to continue its noble mission of service to the community, and to the world, exemplifying the ideals of generosity, compassion and

charity for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Evans Family upon the occasion of creating and completing the 60-day "Power to Push" charity run and to commend Shaun, Nichole, Shamus and Simon, who have labored so conscientiously to maintain and improve the quality of life in our local community and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Evans Family.