

2017-J3764

Senate Resolution No. 3764

BY: Senator LANZA

COMMEMORATING the 108th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America on February 12, 2018

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and its members are dedicated to the development of character and leadership in the youth of this Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 108th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America on February 12, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Scouting's history dates back to the turn of the 20th century to a British Army officer, Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell; while stationed in India, he discovered his men did not know basic first aid or the elementary means of survival in the outdoors; he realized he needed to teach his men many frontier skills, so he wrote a small handbook called Aids to Scouting, which emphasized resourcefulness,

adaptability, and the qualities of leadership that frontier conditions demanded; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning from the Boer War where he became famous for protecting the small town of Mafeking for 217 days, Officer Baden-Powell was amazed to find that his little handbook had caught the interest of English boys; they were using it to play the game of scouting; and

WHEREAS, Officer Baden-Powell had the vision to see some new possibilities and decided to test his ideas on boys; in August of 1907, he gathered approximately 20 boys and took them to Brownsea Island in a sheltered bay off England's southern coast; they set up a makeshift camp that would be their home for the next 12 days; and

WHEREAS, The boys, who had a great time, divided into patrols and played games, went on hikes, and learned stalking and pioneering; in addition, they learned to cook outdoors without utensils; Scouting began on that island and would sweep the globe in a few short years; and

WHEREAS, The next year, Officer Baden-Powell published his book Scouting for Boys, and Scouting continued to grow; that same year, more than 10,000 Boy Scouts attended a rally held at the Crystal Palace; a mere two years later, membership in Boy Scouts had tripled; and

WHEREAS, About the same time, the seeds of Scouting were growing in the United States; on a farm in Connecticut, a naturalist and author named Ernest Thompson Seton was organizing a group of boys called the Woodcraft Indians and Daniel Carter Beard, an artist and writer, organized the Sons of Daniel Boone; and

WHEREAS, In many ways, the two organizations were similar, but they

were not connected; the boys who belonged had never heard of Officer Baden-Powell or of Boy Scouts, and yet both groups were destined to become Boy Scouts in the near future; and

WHEREAS, But first, an American businessman had to get lost in the fog in England; Chicago businessman and publisher William D. Boyce was groping his way through the fog when a boy appeared and offered to take him to his destination; when they arrived, he tried to tip the boy, but the boy refused and courteously explained that he was a Scout and could not accept payment for a Good Turn; and

WHEREAS, Intrigued, the publisher questioned the boy and learned more about Scouting; he also visited Officer Baden-Powell and became captivated by the idea of Scouting; when William Boyce boarded the transatlantic steamer for home, he had a suitcase filled with information and ideas and subsequently, William Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America, incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916, is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness; and

WHEREAS, Community-based organizations receive national charters to use the Scouting program as a part of their own youth work; these groups, which have goals compatible with those of the Boy Scouts of America include: religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor organizations, governmental bodies, corporations, professional associations, and citizens' groups; and

WHEREAS, Scouting and exploring programs develop excellence in young

people by building their character, values, and self-confidence so they can become our next generation of leaders; and

WHEREAS, There are various programs and phases within the Boy Scouts of America, including: Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing; and

WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America have so manifestly contributed to the preservation of those treasured ideals of compassion, honor, preparedness and concern for others which are so paradigmatic of our American Heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 108th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America on February 12, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Boy Scouts of America.