

2017-J4921

Senate Resolution No. 4921

BY: Senator KENNEDY

HONORING Jake Halpern upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Pulitzer Award in Editorial Cartooning on April 16, 2018

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize those artistic individuals whose creative talents and commitment to writing contribute to the enrichment of their community and the world, and to pay homage to a man whose life of writing stands out as an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jake Halpern upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Pulitzer Award in Editorial Cartooning on Monday, April 16, 2018; and

WHEREAS, A Buffalo, New York native, Jake Halpern graduated from City Honors High School in 1993, where he was president of the Student Council, headed the school's Model United Nations Club, and was co-editor of the school newspaper; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Jake Halpern was a summer intern for an Alabama civil rights attorney and founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, and was named Outstanding New Yorker for the Buffalo area in a competition sponsored by the United States Junior Chamber based on his

resume and oration on the topic, "Dare to Dream That Racism and Violence Will Cease"; and

WHEREAS, Jake Halpern went on to graduate from Yale University in 1997, before taking time to travel and explore new places and perspectives; he brought these stories into his writing, both fiction and non-fiction; and

WHEREAS, Jake Halpern's first book, *Braving Home: Dispatches From the Underwater Town, the Lava Side Inn and Other Extreme Locales*, was a main selection for author Bill Bryson's Book of the Month Club; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, a portion of his 2014 best-selling nonfiction book *Bad Paper*, which follows the life of a Buffalo-area man as he navigates debt collection, was excerpted as a cover story by *The New York Times Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, Jake Halpern's serial strip "Welcome to the New World", which ran in the *New York Times*, chronicles a Syrian refugee family adjusting to their new life in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A Fulbright scholar, Jake Halpern has written for multiple national periodicals, including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The Wall Street Journal*; and

WHEREAS, This illustrious author recently returned from India, where he continues to work on nonfiction stories; he is currently a fellow at Morse College at Yale University, and is a contributor to National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and "This American Life"; and

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

creators of such remarkable talent 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 Jake Halpern upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Pulitzer Award in Editorial Cartooning on April 16, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jake Halpern.