## 2017-J5678

Senate Resolution No. 5678

BY: Senator BRESLIN

COMMENDING Evelyn Rituno upon the occasion of being crowned Mini Miss Spirit USA 2018

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Evelyn Rituno upon the occasion of being crowned Mini Miss Spirit USA 2018; and

WHEREAS, A third-grader at Slingerlands Elementary School, Evelyn Rituno has been using her success on the pageant circuit to benefit animals and local wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rituno began entering pageants two years ago; since then, she has competed in 16, winning 13 local pageants and placing second in two; last summer, she captured her first national title, Mini Miss Spirit USA; and

WHEREAS, During the competition, Evelyn Rituno's platform focused on all animal rights, not just the cute and snuggly ones; she truly

believes all animals need love; shortly thereafter, she decided to raise funds for the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society in Menands, New York; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rituno organized her own pageant at Sprinkles Spa in Clifton Park, New York; this determined young lady planned the entire event, including choosing the venue, prizes, crowns and color of the sashes; 16 girls competed in three age groups and a winner and runner-up were chosen, however, every girl received a crown; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rituno also presented the Charity Queen Award to the contestant who donated the most pet supplies; Evelyn raised \$548 and collected more than 200 donations for the Humane Society; and

WHEREAS, In the summer of 2018, Evelyn Rituno plans to raise additional funds for the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society by offering a dog-walking service; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rituno also enjoys helping people; she has appeared at numerous events and during the holiday season, she sang Christmas carols for the residents of a local nursing home; currently, Evelyn and a friend are arranging a special dinner for the families who are staying at the Ronald McDonald House; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her charity work, Evelyn Rituno will continue to enter various pageants, and intends to run for the state title and return to the nationals next year; and

WHEREAS, Young women from across our great Nation from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds aspire to such lofty goals, the

pursuit of which molds and transforms these young women in an exemplary manner; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Rituno exemplifies the potential inherent in our young women; she is an outstanding role model for her peers and for the young people with whom she works and stands with poise and purpose to face the challenges of new experiences; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Evelyn Rituno upon the occasion of being crowned Mini Miss Spirit USA 2018, with the anticipation of her continued exemplary representation of the people of this great Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Evelyn Rituno.