

2017-J5704

Senate Resolution No. 5704

BY: Senator PHILLIPS

COMMEMORATING the 9th Annual St. Baldrick's Shave Off and the 4th Annual Ladies Night, in honor of Aiden Binkley

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in helping to increase awareness and understanding of childhood cancers which affect citizens across our great State and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body 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 organizations, individuals, and events which devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 9th Annual St. Baldrick's Shave Off and the 4th Annual Ladies Night, in honor of 11 year-old Aiden Binkley, a resident of Floral Park, New York, who passed away on December 30, 2010, after losing his battle with stage 4 rhabdomyosarcoma; Aiden is one of 1,600 St. Baldrick's honored kids; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is further proud to recognize the outstanding efforts of Aiden's Army to raise funds for childhood cancer

research in honor of Aiden Binkley; and

WHEREAS, The St. Baldrick's Shave Off was held on Saturday, April 28, 2018, in the parking lot of Trinity Restaurant in Floral Park, New York; one of the largest St. Baldrick's events on Long Island to date, 200 people got their heads shaved and \$400,000 was raised; and

WHEREAS, The St. Baldrick's Ladies Night was held on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at The Inn at New Hyde Park, New Hyde Park, New York, hosted by the Wednesday Mother's Club, a local club which has represented the Floral Park community for 70 years; this favorable event raised \$146,000; and

WHEREAS, More children are lost to cancer in the United States than any other disease, in fact, more than many other childhood diseases combined; before they turn 20, about one in 285 children in the United States will have cancer, and worldwide, a child is diagnosed every two minutes; and

WHEREAS, Only 4% of United States federal funds for cancer research is solely dedicated to childhood cancer research; the St. Baldrick's Foundation was established to fill this gap by providing funding to research programs worldwide through local fundraising events; and

WHEREAS, St. Baldrick's Foundation is a well-respected national organization which operates via the local level through neighborhood head shaving events and "Do What You Want" fundraising initiatives; nearly half a million shaved heads later, they are still the most popular fundraiser; and

WHEREAS, Kids with cancer often lose their hair during treatment; as

a "shavee," an individual will shave their head to show their support, and in the process, inspire friends and family to donate to childhood cancer research; and

WHEREAS, The remarkable donors and volunteers of St. Baldrick's Foundation have enabled the organization to fund over \$230 million in childhood cancer research grants which are given to more than 300 institutions throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, Father John O'Farrell at Our Lady of Victory in Floral Park, New York, asked Bob GaNun to shave his head for kids with cancer; the next year, Bob and his wife, Tricia, moved the head-shaving event to the Trinity Restaurant, where it has become an annual occasion for their village; and

WHEREAS, At the heart of the event is Aiden Binkley, whom Volunteer Event Organizer Bob GaNun met when Aiden was battling cancer; in response to the tragic loss of Aiden, his young brothers, Jake and Devin, formed Aiden's Army in 2011, to inspire kids to shave their heads for St. Baldrick's Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Aiden's Army is unique due to 90% of those who get their heads shaved are children; in 2014, St. Baldrick's Ladies Night (SBLN) was formed when the Wednesday Mother's Club teamed up with Aiden's Army, and concurrently ran a cupcake sale, raising \$1,000 in a few short hours; four years later, the cupcake sales evolved into an annual St. Baldrick's Ladies Night Dinner which has raised \$200,000 cumulatively; and

WHEREAS, Today, through the steadfast efforts of Aiden's brothers, his parents, Lisa and Michael Binkley, and his aunt, Terry Binkley Paterno who serves as Chairperson of SBLN, Floral Park's annual hometown

shave event continues to honor Aiden's memory and his positive attitude which has inspired many throughout the last seven years; when Aiden was diagnosed, he truly believed he got cancer to cure cancer; and

WHEREAS, Since its first shave event, Aiden's Army and SBLN has raised more than \$2,000,000 for cancer research; in 2018, the two Village of Floral Park events were ranked sixth in the world for donations raised for the St. Baldrick's Foundation; currently, through increased childhood cancer research, approximately 90% of kids with the most common type of cancer will live; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have the opportunity to express its highest admiration for Aiden's Army and St. Baldrick's Foundation, and to wish both organizations continued success in all its worthy endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 9th Annual St. Baldrick's Shave Off, and the 4th Annual Ladies Night, in honor of Aiden Binkley; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Aiden's Army.