

2017-J5820

Senate Resolution No. 5820

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of Kamp Kiwanis

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor those illustrious individuals and institutions of the State of New York whose purposeful endeavors serve to enhance the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Kamp Kiwanis; and

WHEREAS, Owned and operated by the New York District Foundation, Kamp Kiwanis serves youth with many forms of disabilities and health impairments without regard to race, color, sex or national origin; and

WHEREAS, The site of Kamp Kiwanis was originally a privately owned property which served as a station for the Underground Railroad, a sanctuary for those fleeing enslavement and oppression in the South during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The Rome Kiwanis Club purchased the property in 1930, and incorporated as the Rome Kiwanis Recreation Association; the Kiwanis Health Camp for Boys was established later that same year, operating for 28 years; and

WHEREAS, The New York Foundation and Kamp Kiwanis was officially founded on December 16, 1968, after the Kiwanis Club of Rome offered the existing camp to the Foundation for just one dollar; and

WHEREAS, Kamp Kiwanis' official opening took place in the summer of 1971, with six cabins and a new administration building as a six-week program for underprivileged boys; just one year later, the camp's capacity was doubled with the construction of six additional cabins; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, a new in-ground swimming pool was constructed at the camp, and from 1984 through 1988, the Pride Drive and the SMILE DRIVE raised significant funds, providing tools, tiles, a van, a car, a pool table, a video slide show of the camp, electrical fixtures, a lawn tractor and a fire system for the kitchen; and

WHEREAS, Kamp Kiwanis became co-ed in 1988, before serving adult/senior citizens the following year; furthermore, the camp was officially opened as a wheelchair accessible facility on June 18, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 1990s, numerous projects were completed at the camp, including the Morgenroth Drama Center, the Commemorative Wall honoring deceased Kiwanians, the Sun Shelter, and the construction of the East Meadow Cabin; and

WHEREAS, Pete's Pool was constructed in 2002, replacing the original pool and dedicated to the memory of Pete Haller; in 2005 a new Infirmary was added to the Administration Building, and 2012 saw the dedication of a new Kamp Library; and

WHEREAS, Located six miles from Rome, New York, Kamp Kiwanis

currently offers 102 acres of woodlands in the rolling western foothills of the Adirondack Mountains; for five decades, this vital facility has provided an extraordinary camping experience for youth, adults and those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The success of Kamp Kiwanis is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, In light of its commitment, dedication and successful efforts, it is the custom of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to Kamp Kiwanis of Taberg, New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Kamp Kiwanis; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kamp Kiwanis.