

2013-J531

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Samuel Lam, of Old Westbury, upon the occasion of his designation as a State Honoree in the 18th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, honoring the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Lam has distinguished himself as a young man of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of community service, purposefulness of life, and sense of responsibility rarely achieved in youthful years; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Lam, 17, of Old Westbury, New York, a Senior at Jericho Senior High School in Jericho, New York, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by being named a 2013 Prudential Spirit of Community State Honoree; and

WHEREAS, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, As a State Honoree, Samuel Lam will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, D.C. in early May 2013, where he will join the State Honorees from the other states and the District of Columbia for four days of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Lam co-founded a nonprofit organization which is working to educate both young people and adults about cyber bullying and to provide support and assistance to those who have been victims of online harassment; and

WHEREAS, When he was in the eighth grade, Samuel Lam stood up to a fellow student who was bullying another boy, and soon became a target himself; the bully and his friends plastered Samuel's Facebook wall with vitriolic statements and racial slurs; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Lam had no idea whom to turn to for help; feeling lost, humiliated and defenseless, he felt caught in a seemingly hopeless battle; and

WHEREAS, Instead of just enduring the attacks, Samuel Lam resolved to do something to stop not just his own harassment, but the cyber bullying millions of young people experience every day around the world either through the Internet or a cell phone; and

WHEREAS, He created a website featuring news and statistics about cyber bullying, along with tips on how to prevent it; he then began enlisting help from classmates, making presentations at middle schools and high schools, and using social media to broaden his audience; and

WHEREAS, As word spread, Samuel Lam and a classmate formed the End to Cyber Bullying Organization which they designed to become a global awareness campaign which, to date, has attracted more than 200 volunteers, sparked youth initiatives in numerous states plus Great Britain, China and Australia, and reached more than 4.5 million individuals worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The success of the State of New York, the strength of our communities, and the vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Samuel Lam, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Samuel Lam, commending him for his outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leader-

ship, and community service and recognizing the value of his labors and the promise of his future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations, with praise and pride, to commend Samuel Lam for his achievements and to extend to him the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being, fully confident of his response to the challenges of a promising future and appreciative of the model he represents for all young people of the Empire State; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Samuel Lam.