



SENATE RESOLUTION 02-015

BY SENATOR(S) Windels, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer, Entz, Epps, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hernandez, Hillman, Isgar, Lamborn, Linkhart, Matsunaka, May, McElhany, Musgrave, Nichol, Owen, Pascoe, Perlmutter, Phillips, Reeves, Takis, Tate, Taylor, Teck, Thiebaut, and Tupa.

CONCERNING HONORING TED POLITO FOR HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WHEREAS, Theodore (Ted) Gerard Polito, Jr., was born June 14, 1974, at a time when some doctors were still advising parents to institutionalize their children with Down Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, When Ted was born, infant stimulation was new, but available, so Ted started school at the age of three months; and

WHEREAS, Ted attended Jefferson County's Fletcher Miller Special School from ages four to six and was doing so well that he switched to Campbell Elementary when he was seven, becoming the first student with Down Syndrome at Campbell Elementary, and he subsequently attended Oberon Junior High and Arvada West High School; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, when Ted was six, the Mile High Down Syndrome Association support group was formed, offering support and networking opportunities for the entire family, and Ted is now a member of the Association's board of directors; and

WHEREAS, When Ted was eight years old, he joined the Cub Scouts, began playing the violin, and took his first trip away from home without his parents to Disneyland; and

WHEREAS, At the age of ten, Ted began skiing and studying Tae Kwon Do and won medals in the Special Olympics; and

WHEREAS, When Ted was twelve, he won the role of Alex in the made-for-television movie "Kids Like These" playing Tyne Daly's and Richard Crenna's son, where he earned the nickname "Teddy One-Shot" for his ability to learn his lines and get them right the first time as each scene was filmed; and

WHEREAS, Ted also appeared in a segment of the CBS news show "Sunday Morning" with Charles Kuralt, filmed to promote the movie; and

WHEREAS, Ted enjoyed high school where he participated in the school band, was the school mascot for three years, was "Wildcat of the Month" in April 1994, lettered in weight lifting, attended two school proms, and enjoyed history and social studies classes; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Ted had the opportunity to visit Israel and Rome, where he had the honor of serving as an altar boy at Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Ted became the first permanent dome attendant at the Capitol as a result of a collaboration between state administrators and job coaches at the Jefferson County School-to-Work Alliance Program and became one of the state's most reliable, well-known, and popular employees, offering trivia, historical brochures, personal anecdotes, and a friendly smile five days a week to the many tourists who visited the Capitol dome; and

WHEREAS, Ted is considered to be the best Capitol Dome Attendant the Colorado Legislature has ever seen and has been praised by his colleagues as "a real find", playing a crucial role in keeping the Capitol dome safe, undamaged, and graffiti-free; and

WHEREAS, Since the closure of the dome in October 2001, Ted has been busy assisting the tour guides, greeting visitors to the Capitol, and assisting the Legislative Council with photocopying, filing, and deliveries; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the Colorado Senate, wish to honor Ted Polito for all of his accomplishments and for his ability to meet the challenges he has faced.

Stan Matsunaka
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE