

Office of the Mayor



# Proclamation

**TOWNSHIP OF MONROE HONORS**

**SPECIAL OLYMPIC ATHLETE**

**RHEA ALATHUR**

**WHEREAS,** Rhea Alathur is a 15 year old, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student from Monroe Township, who is representing New Jersey in the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in gymnastics in July; and

**WHEREAS,** At 18 months, Rhea was diagnosed with a developmental spectrum disorder, which is a life-long condition. She was never able to assimilate with regular kids and so playing team sports was ruled out. But that didn't diminish her determination to be a winner. Within a year of joining Special Olympics in 2017 she became the NJ State Champion; and

**WHEREAS,** Rhea is constantly optimistic about achieving her goals. Things that seem easy for other children are especially hard for her but her positive attitude helps overcome any fear or failure; and

**WHEREAS,** Rhea does not give up easily, if she gives up at all. When given a goal and shown the value of achieving it, like the gold medals in gymnastics competitions, Rhea persists till she gets every step right; and

**WHEREAS,** Rhea is a great example of how special needs children have hidden talents and skills that we do not know of until we give them the opportunities to push the envelope. Rhea is a model for special needs children not to get frustrated when success does not come soon enough.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that I, GERALD W. TAMBURRO, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, urge all our citizens to honor and root for Rhea in her quest for gold at the USA Special Olympic games in Seattle, Washington.**

Dated: May 22, 2018

  
GERALD W. TAMBURRO, MAYOR