

2009-J951

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Honorable Damian J. Amodeo upon the occasion of his designation by the Mediation Center of Dutchess County as the recipient of its Inspired Leadership Award at its Silver Anniversary Celebration on April 2, 2009

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 organizations and individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Honorable Damian J. Amodeo upon the occasion of his designation by the Mediation Center of Dutchess County as the recipient of its Inspired Leadership Award at its Silver Anniversary Celebration, to be held at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie, New York, on Thursday, April 2, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1983, the Mediation Center of Dutchess County provides and promotes conflict prevention, management, and resolution services to benefit more than 2,000 individuals, families, schools, businesses, and organizations each year; and

WHEREAS, The Mediation Center is a non-profit agency, offering its services under the auspices of the New York State Unified Court System's Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution and Court Improvement (ADR/CI) Programs; and

WHEREAS, The Mediation Center of Dutchess County's Silver Anniversary Celebration provides an opportunity for the Center to pay tribute to those who have supported the Center and have helped to further its efforts, as well as those who exemplify its mission of improving the quality of life of the community and citizens it serves; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Damian Joseph Amodeo truly merits such recognition; and

WHEREAS, Judge Amodeo was born in Poughkeepsie in 1943, the only child of Anna and Mariano B. Amodeo, a local attorney; he attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel grade school and Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, graduating in 1961; he then attended Fordham College, graduating in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and went on to earn his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree in 1968 from Fordham Law School, where he was Articles Editor of the FORDHAM LAW REVIEW; and

WHEREAS, After sitting for the July 1968 bar exam, Judge Amodeo married Carol Ann Van Vlack and, upon his admission to the New York State bar, he and his father formed the law firm of Amodeo and Amodeo; and

WHEREAS, He began his career in Family Court in 1969 as the confidential law secretary to The Honorable John R. Heilman, then the only Family Court Judge in Dutchess County, and later also serving Family Court Judges George G. Bernhard, Judith A. Hillery, and George D. Marlow, as their confidential law secretary; and

WHEREAS, In 1988 Judge Amodeo was elected to the newly created third Family Court judgeship, a position he retained until his retirement in December 2008; during his years on the bench, Judge Amodeo and his staff worked closely with the Mediation Center of Dutchess County to establish an active presence in Family Court, and he frequently helped educate the Center's volunteer mediators in Family Court matters and he has also served as guest lecturer on various family law related topics at Vassar College, Marist College, and Dutchess Community College; and

WHEREAS, Judge Amodeo was designated a full-time Acting Supreme Court Justice in 1999, and during his professional career, he has, in addition,

served as President of the Dutchess County Bar Association and Director of its Lawyer Referral Service, and he was President of the Hyde Park Rotary Club, which named him a Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, Judge Amodeo has served on many statewide committees, including, among others the New York State Matrimonial Commission, New York State Parent Education Advisory Board, New York State Judicial Institute Committee, New York State Universal Case Management Committee, and New York State Office of Court Administration Committee on Automation in the Courts, as well as on the Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts and the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such accomplishment are brought to its attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Honorable Damian J. Amodeo upon the occasion of his designation by the Mediation Center of Dutchess County as the recipient of its Inspired Leadership Award at its Silver Anniversary Celebration on April 2, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Damian J. Amodeo.