

2013-J2529

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mark R. Prowatzke, Ph.D. upon the occasion of his retirement after 21 years of distinguished service to the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mark R. Prowatzke, Ph.D. on the occasion of his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mark R. Prowatzke received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin in Elementary Education and Deaf Education, respectively, and he was awarded a professional degree from the University of Minnesota in Educational Policy and Administration; and

WHEREAS, Mark R. Prowatzke held many leadership roles throughout his career, serving as Dean of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind; a Regional Consultant to numerous rural school districts; Supervisor of Deaf Education in Rochester, Minnesota public schools; an adjunct professor and State Director of Rehabilitation Services for the Deaf; and

WHEREAS, Immediately prior to coming to Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, Mark R. Prowatzke was Director of Deaf Services Division for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, whose 48 Deafness professionals designed and provided services in the areas of mental health, chemical dependency, training for agency staff and statewide interpreter referral; and

WHEREAS, Mark R. Prowatzke became the Executive Director at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf and Mill Neck Early Childhood Center in July

1992; and

WHEREAS, Mark R. Prowatzke has been responsible for the supervision, management and educational growth of approximately 200 students and 100 staff; working to improve the education of Deaf and autistic children throughout the New York City region and all across Long Island; and

WHEREAS, Mark R. Prowatzke is considered an expert in deaf education, presenting at many conferences dealing with administration and Deafness; and

WHEREAS, Mark R. Prowatzke has always been a vocal supporter for the need for special schools such as the 4201 schools; believing that Deaf children should have the right to direct access to communication with appropriately certified staff and that students should have an opportunity to interact with staff and students who can communicate in the same language they use; and

WHEREAS, Mark R. Prowatzke has always declared that schools such as Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf are language rich settings and the most appropriate placements for many students; and

WHEREAS, Mark R. Prowatzke has been an inspirational leader for his staff, the parents and the community, whose guidance, care and support will be missed greatly; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mark R. Prowatzke, Ph.D. upon the occasion of his retirement

after 21 years of distinguished service, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mark R. Prowatzke, Ph.D.