

2013-J2889

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Tom Bucaria upon the occasion of his designation as 2013 Person of the Year by the ROCKVILLE CENTRE HERALD on December 26, 2013

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Tom Bucaria has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Tom Bucaria upon the occasion of his designation as 2013 Person of the Year by the ROCKVILLE CENTRE HERALD on December 26, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Tom Bucaria is an attorney in District Court in Hempstead, New York; the third son of Alfred and Catherine Bucaria, he was born in Richmond Hill, Queens, and raised in Garden City; he earned a degree in history from Villanova University in 1980, and a law degree from the University of Bridgeport School of Law, in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Tom Bucaria has been president of the Rockville Centre Little League since 2010; under his expansive leadership, this much-loved sports organization has broadened its focus to emphasize community service, truly establishing it as a positive force for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, Since Tom Bucaria's first year as president, the Little League's Kick-off Parade Food Drive has collected nearly 10,000 pounds of food donations, all of which goes to Rockville Centre food pantries; and

WHEREAS, Led by Tom Bucaria, in 2012 the Rockville Centre Little League inaugurated its own chapter of the Challenger Division, a baseball

team for disabled youths; the group began its first season with 16 players and approximately 30 student members of the Best Buddies program, an organization that creates friendships between volunteers and people with developmental disabilities; in 2013, the Challenger Division had twice as many players and nearly 80 Buddies; and

WHEREAS, Tom Bucaria has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, He chairs the Lawyers Assistance Program, which helps attorneys who are dealing with financial or emotional issues, and chairs Boy Scouts of America Troop 163's planning committee, also working as a merit badge counselor; in addition, this compassionate man sits on the board of the We Care Fund, which distributes charitable grants to improve the lives of children, the elderly and others in need across the county; for the past 13 years, Tom Bucaria has dressed as Santa Claus for the fund's annual Gingerbread University fundraiser; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, Tom Bucaria partnered with the Rockville Centre mayor to improve the ball fields in Rockville Centre; the ensuing public-private partnership between the village and the Little League resulted in a number of the parks being irrigated and evenly planed, and the completion of a much anticipated new field; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Tom Bucaria has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Eileen Burke, and their children, Catherine and Michael, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Tom Bucaria has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor Tom Bucaria upon the occasion of his designation as 2013 Person of the Year by the ROCKVILLE CENTRE HERALD; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tom Bucaria.