

## 2013-J4022

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Benjamin and Ruth Facher Mendel upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Pillars of the Community Award by the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center

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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Benjamin and Ruth Facher Mendel upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Pillars of the Community Award by the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at the Center's 14th Annual Pillars of the Community Awards Brunch to be held on Sunday, April 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Proud members of Congregation Beth Emeth, Benjamin and Ruth Mendel have made significant contributions that have left a lasting impression on both the Jewish community and the organizations which they have served; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Mendel, Jr. is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in architecture, and also attended graduate school at the University of Southern California and the United Jewish Federation's Melton Jewish Adult Education program; as a young man, he served in the United States Navy during the Korean conflict and as a public works officer in the Navy Seabees; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man is an accomplished architect, leading many

noteworthy projects throughout the Capital District, including the design of the original Jewish Community Center building on Whitehall Road; and

WHEREAS, He has also served on the boards of WAMC National Public Radio, B'Nai Brith Housing Corp, Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and the Commission on the Restoration of the New York State Capitol, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Mendel, Jr.'s leadership and volunteer efforts have earned him numerous accolades such as the Jewish Family Services' Volunteer of the Year Award, the Jewish War Veterans Post 105's Four Chaplains Award, and the Interfaith Alliance of New York State Humanitarian Award; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Facher Mendel received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter College and has also attended UJF's Melton Adult Jewish Education program; she has achieved a notable public relations career with the Voorheesville Central School District and has been the author of many articles for the Helderbarker Community News; and

WHEREAS, This illustrious woman's contributions to her community include serving as a Bethlehem Central School District PTO member, vice president and president; she is a Girl Scout leader, member of the local Red Cross Committee and the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue committee; furthermore, she speaks at schools and other interested organizations about her family's experience during World War II at the request of Holocaust Survivors and Friends Education Center; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Facher Mendel is the creator of a program called Person to Person in Bethlehem, bringing high school students to the Delmar Elementary School to help with reading; she is also a member of the boards of UJF's Women's Philanthropy, B'Nai Brith Housing, Beth Emeth

and the Beth Emeth Sisterhood; her good works have earned her recognition from the Albany City Schools PTA and Life Member status from the Girl Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin and Ruth Facher Mendel are the joint recipients of Congregation Beth Emeth's Sisterhood Youth, Education and Service Award, the Scroll of Honor, and the Dr. Morton Berger Memorial Award from Maimonides Hebrew Day School; and

WHEREAS, They are the proud parents of two daughters, Lisa (Bruce) and Naomi (Tom), as well as five grandchildren, Benjamin, Brianna, Evan, Shoshana, and Aubrey; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Benjamin and Ruth Facher Mendel have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and have earned the respect and admiration of their colleagues, family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Benjamin and Ruth Facher Mendel have displayed throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Benjamin and Ruth Mendel upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Pillars of the Community Award by the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Benjamin and Ruth Facher Mendel.