

2013-K841

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jerry M. Iannece upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition

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, Jerry M. Iannece 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 Jerry M. Iannece upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Iannece was born in 1959, the youngest of three children, to immigrant parents from Italy; the family lived in Hell's Kitchen, New York City, until they moved to Astoria, Queens, where he attended local grammar schools and high school; and

WHEREAS, In high school, Jerry Iannece began to display the leadership and academic skills that would characterize his life; he played varsity baseball, was elected Vice-President of the National Honor Society, and President of his School and Class in 1977; he graduated with honors in the top 2% of his class, and won an academic scholarship to New York University (NYU); and

WHEREAS, While attending NYU, Jerry Iannece founded the Italian American Students Organization, as well as the "AIUTO," the American Italian University Terimoto Organization, raised thousands of dollars for Avelino earthquake victims in 1979, was elected Vice President of the Pre-Law Society, and initiated an NYU Cultural Exchange Program with Italy; in 1981 he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, graduating with honors after only three and 1/2 years with a double major in History and Poli-

tical Science; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Iannece went on to St. John's University School of Law, becoming the first descendant of immigrants from his parent's small town in Italy to do so; he excelled at trial work in law school, winning virtually every trial competition he entered, and representing his school in the American Bar Association Finals; he was elected President of the St. John's Law Student Bar Association in his final year, and his administration is still regarded as one of the most innovative and effective in the school history; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation from law school, Jerry Iannece went to work as an Assistant District Attorney under District Attorney Mario Merola in the Bronx, quickly advancing and moving to a Trial Bureau; after trying numerous major felony cases, he left the Bronx District Attorney's office and started his own law firm, Iannece & Calvacca; and

WHEREAS, Jerry M. Iannece 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, In 1987 he was appointed Legal Counsel to the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens, and was called upon to revive the long dormant Queens Columbus Parade; under his leadership as chairman of the parade, it quickly grew to become the second largest in NYC, and has continuously marched for well over a decade; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Jerry Iannece launched a pro-bono federal civil rights lawsuit against a local Queens County civic association for discrimination against Italian-Americans, compelling them to retreat; he also convinced the Italian government to initiate Italian language courses in local schools, and founded the North East Queens Italian American Political Association; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Iannece's infectious enthusiasm and outstanding civic involvement was recognized by others; he was appointed by Queens Borough President Claire Shulman to Community Board No. 11, and was quickly

chosen as its Zoning Chairman; in 2002 he was elected to serve as Community Board No. 11's Chairman and, after stepping down from the chairmanship in 2007 due to term limits, he was enthusiastically re-elected as Chairman in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Iannece serves on the boards of directors of numerous altruistic organizations and, in 1996, was elected President and Chairman of the Board of the Bayside Hills Civic Association in northeast Queens; he was instrumental in dealing with a number of extremely important issues facing Queens County; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Iannece's proudest accomplishment is the Oakland Lake Ravine Project, a substantial initiative to remediate major flooding in Bayside and Bayside Hills, which was a major win for every community involved; the project also helped save Oakland Lake, created wetlands, and cleaned up the ecosystem while putting thousands of union employees to work; and

WHEREAS, While maintaining a thriving law practice, a full community civic schedule, and being an active parent and husband, Jerry Iannece also finds time to coach Little League baseball and basketball, lectures students at Career Days and Forums, and provides free legal counsel and law-related lectures to a host of civic, social, political, and educational organizations; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Jerry M. Iannece has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Lynn Calvacca Iannece, and their children, Vincent and Elena, 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 Jerry M. Iannece has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jerry M. Iannece upon the occasion of his designation for special

recognition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jerry M. Iannece.