

2013-J4541

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rabbi Marc Schneier upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Friendship Award by the Turkish Cultural Center Queens

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the causes of peace and understanding, building bridges between cultures for the benefit of us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rabbi Marc Schneier upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Friendship Award by the Turkish Cultural Center Queens, which was celebrated at its 11th Annual Friendship Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 10, 2014, in Flushing Town Hall, Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Turkish Cultural Center Queens (TCCQ) is the premier source of information for the people of Queens County about the rich history, culture and heritage of Turkey; this non-profit organization is committed to community involvement and actively encourages international cultural exchanges via special events and projects such as business meetings, multicultural discussion forums and international trips to Turkey; and

WHEREAS, The TCCQ's 11th Annual Friendship Dinner and Awards Ceremony celebrates diversity, peace and harmony among cultures, promoting the appreciation and enjoyment of the entire colorful spectrum of its community; the theme for this year's event is "Freedom of Speech and Respect for the Sacred"; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Marc Schneier is an internationally renowned figure, respected for his innovative leadership in the promotion of dialogues

and cooperation in intergroup and race relations; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in New York City, Rabbi Marc Schneier is a graduate of Yeshiva University and is the 18th generation of a distinguished rabbinic dynasty; he is the founding rabbi of the Hampton Synagogue in Westhampton Beach, New York, and the New York Synagogue in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, A prominent leader in the Jewish community, Rabbi Marc Schneier has been in the forefront of combating anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in Jewish and Muslim communities around the world; furthermore, he is the founder and President of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU); and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has written many notable books including SHARED DREAMS: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, and SONS OF ABRAHAM: A CANDID CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE AND UNITE JEWS AND MUSLIMS which he co-authored with Imam Shamsi Ali; published in 2013, this inspirational work features a foreword by former President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Rabbi Marc Schneier upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Friendship Award by the Turkish Cultural Center Queens; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Marc Schneier.