

2013-J4997

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring G. Stephen Christopher upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor G. Stephen Christopher upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at the Center's 20th Annual Dessert Spectacular on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at the Franklin Plaza Ballroom in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities lead happy and fulfilling lives; rooted in a philosophy of self-determination, the Center offers many services including advocacy, peer counseling, and facilitates access to housing and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Beacon Leadership Award is granted annually to those few individuals and businesses which have demonstrated their commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities; honorees have each in their own way helped make the community a more welcoming place for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, G. Stephen "Chico" Christopher first arrived in Troy, New York, in 1966 as a student at the RPI School of Architecture; he quickly became involved in off-campus life, participating in the work-study Troy

Architectural Program (TAP), a not-for-profit community design center;
and

WHEREAS, After spending two years in the Peace Corps in Iran, following graduation, G. Stephen Christopher reunited with TAP where he continues to work towards the betterment of his community; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to helping those with disabilities, this esteemed architect planned the renovations of the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley's building, including the new elevator, and renovations to the third floor; and

WHEREAS, Going beyond the traditional role of an architect, G. Stephen Christopher negotiated with contractors, and was on site regularly to address problems; he was also a vital force in ensuring contractors kept to established timeframes and minimized cost overruns; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, G. Stephen Christopher has been an enduring voice in the community for equal rights for people with disabilities; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor G. Stephen Christopher upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to G. Stephen Christopher.