

2013-K1367

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring former New York State Assemblyman Ivan Lafayette and Bertine Lafayette for their service, spanning 50 years, to their community, the 34th Assembly District, and the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals who have distinguished themselves through their exemplary careers, accomplishments, and purposeful lives of service to their community and their profession; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor former New York State Assemblyman Ivan Lafayette and his wife, Bertine Lafayette for their service, spanning 50 years, to their community, the 34th Assembly District, and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The Lafayettes will be fittingly recognized for their distinguished community service and dedication to the residents of the 34th Assembly District of the State of New York on Thursday, June 26, 2014, at a Dinner Dance held in their honor at Bruno's On The Boulevard, Jackson Heights, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Lafayette served in the New York State Assembly from January of 1977 until his retirement in September of 2008; he then was appointed by the New York State Governor to the State Insurance Department as Deputy Superintendent; in that position, he spoke to various groups throughout the State on issues dealing with insurance and other matters concerning the Insurance Department; he was at the Department when it became the Department of Financial Services, combining the New York State Banking and Insurance Departments; and

WHEREAS, While in the Assembly, Ivan Lafayette served as Deputy Speaker and Dean of the Queens Assembly Delegation; he served on the Executive Board of NCOIL which is the National Conference of Insurance

Legislators and was the Chairman of NCOIL's Financial Service Committee; he also was the Chair of the Assembly's the Sub-Committee on Automobile Insurance; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Lafayette also served as a Senior Member on the Assembly's Ways & Means Committee, Rules Committee, Steering Committee and Banks Committee, as well as the Insurance and Transportation Committees and the Assembly Intern Program; and

WHEREAS, From 1985 until December of 1990, he served as the first Chairman of a Legislative Standing Committee on Racing and Wagering; as such, he was invited to speak at meetings at the various segments of the racing industry nationwide; those National meetings were sponsored by the Thoroughbred Racing Association and the Standardbred Racing Association; through his efforts, legislation was adopted to recognize the inter-relationship of various types of tracks and off-track interests; with his efforts, New York State's Racing & Wagering Industry was enhanced with commensurate growth in State and local revenues; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Lafayette served as Speaker Pro-Tempore for five years; from 1997 until 1999, he served as Majority Whip and was Chairman of the New York State Assembly's Committee on Standing Committees; prior to those positions, he was the Chairman of the Assembly's Majority Steering Committee; from January 1991 until December 1992, he served as Chairman of the Assembly's standing committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection; he is the former Chairperson of the Administrative Regulations Review Commission and Co-Chair of the Democratic Study Group; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his legislative career, Ivan Lafayette was in the automotive field with his father; as a teenager he worked changing tires and washing cars; he then went on to become a mechanic, a repair person,

parts manager and then General Manager for his father's Packard, Studebaker, Rambler, Lincoln Mercury, Edsel and Volvo franchises; in 1960-1961, he was honored as the Top Salesman for American Motors in the

United States; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his legislative career, Assemblyman Lafayette is proud to have been a sponsor of hundreds of Assembly bills that are now New York state laws; those that are particularly noteworthy are the nationally acclaimed Truth in Testing Law for college applicants as well as his Uninsured Motorist's Law, which creates penalties for driving without insurance; other accomplishments include the law that requires banking institutions to be responsible as to interest obligations; he is the sponsor of the law that establishes Banking Development Districts to encourage economic growth in certain areas, as well as the Omnibus Racing & Wagering Laws, and the Red Light Camera law; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Lafayette was instrumental in the expansion of Building Aid to include Pre-K and Kindergarten facilities; he has also worked to provide a fair capital program for New York City schools; he was involved in innovative concepts to improve education, and provide preschool training; through his efforts, three Early Childhood centers are in place in the neighborhood; the first, P.S. 228 opened in September of 2001, and the other two, P.S. 222 and P.S. 28 opened in September of 2002; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Lafayette sponsored the IIES Law--Insurance Information and Enforcement System; this law allows for the tracking of the insurance status of New York State registered vehicles, as well as any traffic violations, and registrations; this law was a model for the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Lafayette is the author of the Auto-Bumper Quality Label Law, and made possible the New York City Item Pricing Law; he is also a sponsor of the Social Services Law which increases support for those in need, as well as a law that makes low-cost electricity available to various businesses and associations; he also made possible the expansion of the Open Meetings Law; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Lafayette also sponsored laws that suspend Driver's Licenses of specified offenses that are committed within and out of

New York; another one of his laws prohibits price gouging by all parties in the distribution of all consumer goods and another states that insurance companies must give written notification to the policy holder when their policy is not being renewed; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lafayette also sponsored many laws that provide co-ops

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with veteran's property tax exemptions and removed parking tax obligations to the shareholders in co-ops, as well as the expansion of SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemptions); he was also a staunch supporter of legislation that guarantees humane treatment of all animals; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Lafayette has a long history of involvement in civic and community affairs; he is a founding member of the Jackson Heights/Elmhurst Kehillah, a member of Post 209 of the Jewish War Veterans and the American Legion; he is the former President of the Jackson Heights Community Federation, a former Trustee of the North Queens Homeowner and Civic Association, and was also a Board Member of the Corona Preservation Senior Center and the Community Education Resource Center, Community Development Agency's Area Policy Board 3 and 4 and a member of the Executive Committee of the Health Planning Task Force, Sub-regional B; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Lafayette served as President of the Jackson Heights Chapter of B'Nai B'rith; he is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Jackson Heights, Queens, is an honorary member of the Father Bellini Society,

Queens Council on the Arts, and the Latin American Cultural Center; he also served on the Faculty Advisory Board of LaGuardia Community College Secretarial Science Department; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Lafayette was the impetus for the formation of the Air Services Committee for LaGuardia and Kennedy Airports under the Queens Office of Economic Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary man has received numerous awards and cita-

tions from groups such as the New York City Coalition of School-based Drug Prevention and Education Programs, Federation of Italian, twice by Boy Scouts of America, St. Gabriel's C.Y.O. Italian Charities, Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities, Local 504 Air Transport Workers Union, numerous Block Associations, the Langston Hughes Library, the Jackson Heights/Elmhurst Volunteer Ambulance Corp., North Queens Homeowners and Civic Association, Junction Boulevard Merchants Association, B'nai B'rith, Jewish War Veterans, Father Bellini Society, the Long Island Board of Realtors, Jackson Heights Community Development Corporation, and the Astoria Heights Homeowners and Tenants Association, as well as LaGuardia Community College, Kiwanis Club of Woodside, former Lieutenant Governor Alfred Del Bello, former Council Members Peter Vallone, Jr. and Joseph Lisa, former Congressman Thomas Manton, Senator George Onorato, the Woodside Senior Assistance Program, the Catherine Sheridan Senior Center, the Steinway Senior Center and the East Elmhurst/Corona Civic Association, and Elmjack Little League, The Lexington Center for the Deaf gave him their Award of Merit, and he has been honored three times by the North Queens Civic & Homeowner Association; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Ivan Lafayette was honored by the Dominican-American Society of Queens and he received the Morty Manfred Award from PFLAG; the Federation of New York Housing Cooperatives and Condominiums declared him a Friend of Co-ops and Condos and Queens Council on the Arts honored him with their Friend of the Arts Award; the United Community Civic Association awarded him as their 2006 Man of the Year and most recently, the Community Education Council, District 30 proclaimed him as Educator of the Year; he is also the recipient of LaGuardia Community College's Presidents' Medal; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Lafayette participated in the Adopt-A-Class program and has "adopted" seventh grade classes, at J.H.S 141 Q, and the Joseph Pulitzer, I.S. 145 School in Jackson Heights; he has received special awards from these schools and from the William Cullen Bryant High School for his outstanding commitment to public education; he has

also been cited for participating in the Mentorship program with LS.

227, the Louis Armstrong School and participated in the annual "Principal for a Day" program; Ivan considered education as one of his highest priorities and was constantly fighting for additional funds for the schools in his district; and

WHEREAS, Bertine Lafayette grew up in an environment that was filled with the arts; her father was a violinist with the New York Philharmonic, her mother a teacher at the Juilliard School of Music and her brother, Michael, was a concert violinist; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her childhood, Bertine studied ballet, piano and art and graduated from Hunter College with a major in speech and dramatics; she earned her Master of Science degree from Hunter College in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Bertine Lafayette was an early childhood teacher for the New York City Board of Education from 1970 until her retirement in 1995; she was a Turnkey teacher trainer from 1987 until 1990, and served as a Chapter Leader for the UFT from 1973-1976 and again from 1988 until 1995; she was also the president of the P.T. A. at PS 148 from 1963 until 1965; and

WHEREAS, She has served on the board of Queens Council on the Arts since 1985, and served as its President from 1990 until 1992; she also served on the Board of Queens Theater in the Park from 1992 until 2010; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Bertine Lafayette serves on the Program Committee for the Sherman, Connecticut Jewish Community Center as well as the Queens College Arts Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Bertine and Ivan Lafayette have made Jackson Heights their home since 1956; they have three sons, Jonathan, an executive editor of a Crain's publication and his wife, Helen, an attorney; Mark, an attorney, and his wife, Lisa, a computer specialist; and Richard, a Medical Doctor at Stanford University, and his wife, Christa, a Bio-Tech

specialist; they are also the loving grandparents of nine grandchildren, Sara, Michael and triplets Gregory, Eric and Marissa, William Tyler, Ascher Rabin, Thalia and Anya; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Honorable Ivan and Bertine Lafayette for their many years of dedicated service to the residents of the 34th Assembly District as well as the entire State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ivan and Bertine Lafayette.

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