

2015-J2301

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Matilda Raffa Cuomo upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who foster ethnic pride and strive to preserve their cultural heritage, thereby enhancing the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of community throughout this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Matilda Raffa Cuomo upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award selection by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators to be celebrated on June 8, 2015, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of St. John's University's Teachers College, Matilda Raffa Cuomo was married to the late former Governor Mario Cuomo for more than 50 years, and is the mother of the current Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and, Maria, Margaret, Madeline, and Christopher; and

WHEREAS, Matilda Raffa Cuomo has dedicated her whole life to community service and has long been a respected and distinguished advocate on behalf of women, children, and families as well as an advocate for Italian culture and heritage; and

WHEREAS, As First Lady of New York State from 1983 to 1995, she worked diligently as a volunteer with state and elected officials, and community leaders in an effort to establish programs to prevent child abuse, strengthen families, promote adoption for foster care children, and prevent school drop-out; and

WHEREAS, Matilda Raffa Cuomo also helped establish the Mentoring

Program which provides mentors for children who face issues such as dropping out of school and teenage pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this remarkable woman chaired and served as chief spokesperson for the New York State Decade of the Child initiative, co-chaired the Governor's Commission on Child Care, and chaired the New York State Citizens Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; and

WHEREAS, Matilda Raffa Cuomo also led New York State's participation in the United Nations' 1990 World Summit for Children and the U.S. ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, has also traveled to Africa on behalf of UNICEF, and has been associated with the Day of the African Child since its inception; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Matilda Raffa Cuomo was invited to the Republic of Malta to launch the International Year of the Family, and in 1997, she was invited by President Clinton and Colin Powell to participate in the President's First Summit on Volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, A member of numerous civic and professional organizations, Matilda Raffa Cuomo was one of the founders of Mentoring USA Italia, and also serves as a lifetime National Assembly Board Member of the National American Cancer Society and as a Board Member of the President's Council of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Matilda Raffa Cuomo has truly distinguished herself through her lifetime of compassionate service, and, subsequently, the Italian-American community and all of New York State has profited greatly from her talent and dedication; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, 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 honor Matilda Raffa Cuomo upon the occasion of her designation as recip-

ient of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Matilda Raffa Cuomo.