

2015-J2791

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring music legend Jimmy Cavallo for a lifetime of achievement

WHEREAS, It is the sense of the State of New York to recognize those outstanding individuals within our midst who have impacted the arts and cultural enrichment of our communities through their creative talents; one such individual is music legend Jimmy Cavallo; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to honor Jimmy Cavallo for a lifetime of achievement upon the occasion of his final Festa Italiana Syracuse performances, which will take place on September 18-19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Born in Syracuse, New York, in 1927, Jimmy Cavallo started performing alto sax with a swing band as a young teenager, but he soon switched to tenor sax and formed his own band at 16 years old; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cavallo entered the United States Navy at the end of World War II and brought his saxophone with him; and

WHEREAS, Upon his discharge from the military, Jimmy Cavallo hit the Carolina beaches with a band called the Jimmy Cavallo Quartet; it was one of the world's first white R&B bands, which started publically performing Wynonie Harris, Louis Jordan, and Hucklebuck Williams tunes, as well as many originals; and

WHEREAS, During the summer of 1949, Jimmy Cavallo moved back to Syracuse, reorganized the Jimmy Cavallo Quartet, and started packing several popular Central New York clubs, such as Sorrentos and DiCastros; Jimmy's band was a phenomenon, drawing large crowds from Utica to Rochester and Binghamton that wanted to hear the uptempo R&B music; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, Jimmy Cavallo joined a new R&B band, which would become Jimmy Cavallo and the Houserockers; the band subsequently

recorded for Alan Freed at Coral/Decca Records and was propelled into the national spotlight; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cavallo and the Houserockers appeared in Freed's 1956 classic rock and roll film "Rock, Rock, Rock" and performed the title song "Rock, Rock, Rock" and "The Big Beat"; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cavallo's successful career has since spanned eight decades; from the Carolinas where he was instrumental in creating "The Shag" to as far as England and Italy, where he has played to thousands of fans since 2002; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cavallo has also forever changed the face of music in his hometown of Central New York with the blues; though he moved to Florida, he has frequently returned to perform at various popular venues that include, but are not limited to Sylvan Beach, Festa Italiana Syracuse, and the New York State Blues Fest; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cavallo has continued to record music into his eighties, and still draws acclaimed attention; his recordings from independent label Petcap Records and Guy Capone have also been sold and listened to all over the world; these CDs include Jimmy Cavallo Live at the Persian Terrace, Live at Freddy's, and Jimmy Cavallo and the Houserockers, Then and Now, which was released in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cavallo also performed every Friday and Saturday night at Timpano Chophouse in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from 2006 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his career, Jimmy Cavallo has received numerous accolades, including being nominated for a W.C. Handy Award as comeback artist of the year for 2003; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause to hereby recognize and honor Jimmy Cavallo for a lifetime of achievement upon his final

performances for Festa Italiana Syracuse, which will take place on September 18-19, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jimmy Cavallo.