

2015-K727

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Maung S. Htoo for his great achievements in the field of academia and commitment to improving his community through volunteerism and education

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Maung S. Htoo was born in Yenangyaung, Burma, a small town next to the Irrawaddy River in 1928; he attended Yenangyaung High School in Burma, where he developed a strong passion for the sciences and natural environment; and

WHEREAS, Upon completion of high school in 1947, Dr. Htoo attended the University of Rangoon in Burma for two years and then moved to the United States to study Chemical Engineering at the University of Maine; and

WHEREAS, Later, in 1961, he earned a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, After achieving a doctorate, Dr. Htoo began his career at IBM in Endicott, New York, where he published several scholarly articles, developed a number of patents on photosensitive polymers and co-authored a book on microelectronic polymers in collaboration with scientists and engineers from AT&T Bell Laboratories, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Hitachi, Mitsubishi and Philips Research Laboratories; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his brilliance and dedication, Dr. Maung Htoo was elected to be a member of the IBM Academy of Technology in 1990, the highest recognition an IBM scientist and engineer can receive; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Dr. Htoo retired from IBM as a member of the Senior

Technical Staff and Manager of Technical Assurance Laboratories after 32 years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his efforts as a leading scientist at IBM, Dr. Maung Htoo continues to be at the forefront of many community service and educational programs in the Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, Most notably, Dr. Htoo has provided significant leadership and support for 25 years as the Director of the Dutchess County Science Fair; in 1980, he was appointed as a judge for the contest, and his passion for teaching quickly led him to the position of Director; and

WHEREAS, His efforts have made the Dutchess County Science Fair into the longest running regional science fair in the United States affiliated with the International Science and Engineering Science Fair Organization; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Htoo's charismatic and hands-on leadership is the most critical attribute of the success of the Dutchess County Science Fair; he has volunteered nearly 10,000 hours in the past 25 years, and is the longest serving Director of the Dutchess County Science Fair; and

WHEREAS, He effectively revitalized the Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council and has served as Chairman of the Council since 2005; Dr. Maung Htoo continues to be a leader in the area of environmental preservation for LaGrange and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Htoo is an active member of the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions, where he works with scholars, municipal leaders, students and concerned residents across the state to develop open space stewardship plans, advocate for responsible environmental policy and educate all New Yorkers on natural land preservation; and

WHEREAS, He was the recipient of the 2007 Margery Sachs Service Award from the Association for his lifelong environmental concern and service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Htoo has been a longtime fellow of the Poughkeepsie-Arlington Rotary Club, and served as President of the organization;

inspired by his passion for environmental conservation and desire to help those in need, he went on a Rotary Club mission to South India in 2004 to donate fishing nets to a small village that was tragically impacted by a large tsunami; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his charitable and courageous efforts, Dr. Maung Htoo was awarded the Outstanding International Rotarian Award from the Rotary Club of Mayiladuthurai, South India in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Htoo has gained a wealth of knowledge about our global environment from his educational trips to South Africa, Australia, Thailand, India, Nepal, Mauritius, Peru and the Galapagos Islands that he has been able to apply to his work with the Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council and New York State Association of Conservation Commissions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Maung Htoo continues to serve as President of Vassar Brothers Institute where he has worked with colleagues to preserve and promote useful knowledge in Science, Literature and Art in the community for the past 19 years; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to impart his wisdom and experience to the youth of our State, Dr. Htoo passionately served as an adjunct professor of Chemistry and Physical Science at Dutchess Community College for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Upon his retirement from IBM, Dr. Maung Htoo instructed Chemistry at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, for five years, served as a part-time instructor of Chemistry at the State University of New York at New Paltz for six years and continues to teach Chemistry at Marist College; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his countless hours of volunteerism and efforts to educate others in the community in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dr. Htoo was awarded the 300 Millimeter Semiconductor Wafer Award in 2013 by IBM Systems & Technology Group in East Fishkill; and

WHEREAS, More recently, Dr. Maung Htoo was given the United States of

America President's Volunteer Service Award by the Corporation for National Service for volunteering over 500 hours annually for seven consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, Today, Dr. Htoo resides in LaGrange, New York, with his wife, Anne; they are the proud parents of Susan Htoo, Esq., Nancy Rathbun,

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Rhonda Htoo and Naomi Htoo-Mosher, and the loving grandparents of Matthew Mosher, Daniel Htoo-Levine and Mya Mosher; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Dr. Maung Htoo, devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth, are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Maung S. Htoo for his great achievements in the field of academia and commitment to improving his community through volunteerism and education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Maung S. Htoo.