

2015-J2889

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to Jim Bertolone after many years of distinguished service to the public employees of New York State, and congratulating him upon the occasion of his retirement as President of the Rochester and Vicinity Labor Council, AFL-CIO

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to Jim Bertolone after many years of distinguished service to the public employees of New York State, and congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement as President of the Rochester and Vicinity Labor Council, AFL-CIO; and

WHEREAS, For the past 17 years, Jim Bertolone has rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Rochester and Vicinity Labor Council, AFL-CIO; and

WHEREAS, Raised in Northwest Rochester, New York, Jim Bertolone, a union member since the age of 16, learned of fairness and the rights of workers from an early age; he graduated from Jefferson High School in 1969, before earning an undergraduate degree from Brockport State University in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Jim Bertolone began his illustrious career as an LSM Operator for the United States Postal Service in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Quickly climbing the ranks, Jim Bertolone served as Clerk Craft Director of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), Greater Rochester Area, Local 215 from 1978 to 1983, followed by its Vice President from 1983 to 1990; he went on to become President, a position he has held for the past 25 years; and

WHEREAS, A steadfast advocate for workers' rights, Jim Bertolone has served as President of the Rochester and Vicinity Labor Council, AFL-CIO since 1998, and will officially retire this year; during his tenure he was instrumental in the representation of 100 Unions and 60,000 Union members in Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, Jim Bertolone is also the President of the Rochester and Genesee Valley Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, representing 100,000 Union members and 160 Unions in 11 Counties; and

WHEREAS, As President of Rochester and Genesee Valley Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and as a staunch supporter of civil rights and workers' rights, Jim Bertolone continues to fight to ensure fairness and non-discrimination for all peoples; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, while respectful of opposing opinions, Jim Bertolone never hesitates to join the battle by speaking up and on behalf of those whose voices who have been silenced; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as President of the Rochester and Vicinity Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Jim Bertolone served with loyalty, honor and distinction; in his official acts, he was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Iris, and their three sons, Rafe, David and Vinnie, as well as their grandson, Tyler, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure with the Rochester and Vicinity Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Jim Bertolone earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to Jim Bertolone after many years of distinguished service to the public employees of New York State, and congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement as President of the Rochester and Vicinity Labor Council, AFL-CIO; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jim Bertolone.