

## 2015-J3039

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Robert Vecchio upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the inaugural Champion for Change Award by the New York State School Boards Association

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge educational leaders whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Robert Vecchio upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the inaugural Champion for Change Award by the New York State School Boards Association celebrated at the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association's annual banquet on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at the Woodbury Country Club in Woodbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State School Boards Association's Champion for Change Award recognizes innovative and ethical leadership which has brought improvements in a school district's programs and operations; and

WHEREAS, Known for being a tremendous advocate for children, Robert Vecchio was selected for this prestigious honor out of approximately 700 nominations from school districts across the state for his work which has enriched the lives of students in his community; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Shirley, New York, Robert Vecchio is a graduate of Sachem High School, and currently serves as Chief Financial Officer of Seafield Center, a rehabilitation facility which serves Long Island and New York City; and

WHEREAS, Since 2003, this esteemed man has ably served as a member of the William Floyd School District Board of Education, and has diligently acted as the panel's president for the past nine years; recently, he was re-elected to another six year term; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious tenure, Robert Vecchio has served with loyalty, honor, and distinction while helping the young people of his community and contributing to the rise of the William Floyd School District's graduation rate to 80 percent; and

WHEREAS, Robert Vecchio has also helped his district develop an in-house career and technical education program to give teenagers instruction for careers in six fields: automotive technology, business, carpentry, cosmetology, culinary arts and medical assisting; the program's enrollment has grown to 200 students since its inception three years ago; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Robert Vecchio is credited with spearheading the Town of Brookhaven's first "Our Community Salutes" program to recognize high school graduates who have proudly served their country as members of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Robert Vecchio has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; he graciously serves on the Brookhaven Town Ethics Board in addition to his many other duties; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Robert Vecchio has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Laura, and their two children, Amanda and Robert Jr., all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Robert Vecchio has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when educational leaders of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, 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 Robert Vecchio upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the inaugural Champion for Change Award by the New York State School Boards Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert Vecchio.