

2015-J3315

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Joseph Graffagnino posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the 2016 Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame on February 13, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Joseph Graffagnino posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the 2016 Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame, to be celebrated at its Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 13, 2016, at Rex Manor, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Fondly remembered as Mr. Fort Hamilton, Joseph Graffagnino graduated from Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, New York, in 1991; and

WHEREAS, After his graduation, Joseph "Joey" Graffagnino earned his bachelor's degree from Hunter College; in 2002, he married the former Linda Tronolone, and together, they raised their daughter Mia Rose, and son, Joseph; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Graffagnino's home away from home was the fire department; he enjoyed the friendships, the outdoors type of work, the camaraderie of his fellow firefighters and the food; and

WHEREAS, On May 9, 1999, Joseph Graffagnino joined the New York City Fire Department; he was assigned to Ladder 5, Engine 24 in Greenwich Village, Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Assigned to Ladder 149, Engine 284 in Brooklyn on September 11, 2001, Joseph Graffagnino and his fellow firefighters arrived at the

World Trade Center shortly after the collapse of the second tower; sadly, he lost 11 brothers from his original firehouse; and

WHEREAS, During the aftermath of this unspeakable tragedy, Joseph Graffagnino spent most of his off time searching for survivors, and later remains at Ground Zero; for his steadfast efforts, he was the recipient of the 9/11 Survivors Medal; and

WHEREAS, Tragically, Joseph Graffagnino died in the line of duty on August 18, 2007, while battling a 7 alarm fire at the Deutsche Bank building in lower Manhattan; after his death, he was promoted to the esteemed rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Sincerely loved and respected, Joseph Graffagnino was selected as the 2007 Fireman of the Year by the local Community Board 10; in October of that same year, he was the recipient of a proclamation celebrating Italian American Heritage and Culture from the New York City Council; and

WHEREAS, An inspiration and a role model for the youth of Fort Hamilton High School, as well as to the community-at-large, Joseph Graffagnino truly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 congratulate Joseph Graffagnino posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the 2016 Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame on February 13, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joseph Graffagnino.