

2015-J4605

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Steve and Shelley Turk upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Quality of Life Award by Family Services on April 21, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Steve and Shelley Turk upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Quality of Life Award by Family Services, to be celebrated at its Family of the Year Awards Event on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at the Grandview, Poughkeepsie, New York; and

WHEREAS, Steve and Shelley Turk own and operate the Rocking Horse Ranch Resort and SplashDown Beach Waterpark under their management group, Turk Hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, Turk Hospitality Group invokes a warm, safe, nostalgic feeling in parents and a sensation of wonderment and delight in children; and

WHEREAS, Rocking Horse Ranch Resort, an all-inclusive family destination in Highland, has consistently earned the prestigious 3 Diamond rating in addition to receiving local accolades for the property's award winning landscape and facility design; Trip Advisor has rated Rocking Horse Ranch as the number one, all-inclusive resort in America; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, the Turks purchased SplashDown Park in Fishkill, renamed it SplashDown Beach, and immediately added the Monster Wave Pool and the Humunga Halfpipe tube ride; upon the completion of its first

season, the park earned Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation's Newcomer Business Award; and

WHEREAS, Since that time, the Turks have invested substantial funds in new rides and attractions including the most recent Arctic Mammoth, one of the longest family raft rides in the Northeast; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Steve and Shelley Turk, Rocking Horse Ranch and SplashDown Beach were both recognized by the Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress with an award for their development as two regional tourism destinations which bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Hudson River Valley annually; and

WHEREAS, Steve Turk attended the University of Miami School of Business and received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in International Marketing and Management; in 1987, he became a shareholder and Vice President of the Rocking Horse Ranch Resort; in the fall of 2001, he and Shelley purchased the balance of the company and Steve now serves as President/CEO; and

WHEREAS, With more than 35 years of experience, Steve Turk has cultivated a strong management team at Turk Hospitality who are committed to the science of truly understanding what each guest experiences during every moment of their stay; and

WHEREAS, Vice President at both Rocking Horse Ranch and SplashDown Beach, Shelley Turk also works in the Finance and Accounting Departments; prior to serving in this capacity she was employed by KeyCorp as an Auditor and American Capital as a Financial Analyst and registered Stockbroker; and

WHEREAS, Shelley Turk received her Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Economics from SUNY New Paltz in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Working closely together, and married for 29 years, Steve and Shelley Turk are a formidable team; whether it's adding features and refurbishments at the Ranch, constructing new rides at the Waterpark, or building a brand new "Family Exploration and Adventure Destination" in

New Paltz, Steve and Shelley continue to bring the very best in family entertainment to the Hudson River Valley; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to the greater Hudson Valley community, Steve and Shelley Turk generously give of their time and energy to support education and the arts, as well as health initiatives and regional coalitions; countless boards and local committees have benefited from their service and gracious contributions; and

WHEREAS, With them throughout have been their two beautiful daughters, Samantha and Stefanie, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of their lives and rejoice in their achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Steve and Shelley Turk have displayed throughout their lives; 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 honor Steve and Shelley Turk upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Quality of Life Award by Family Services on April 21, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Steve and Shelley Turk.