

2015-J5691

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Elizabeth Coco upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Hope and Hospitality Award by Circles of Mercy on June 8, 2016

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Coco has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Elizabeth Coco upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Hope and Hospitality Award by Circles of Mercy, to be celebrated at its Annual Signature Fundraising Gala, "A Taste of Mercy," on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, at Shaker Ridge Country Club, Loudonville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The theme for this year's event is "Continuing the Mercy Tradition"; and

WHEREAS, Circles of Mercy, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the community by working to end the cycle of poverty, especially among women and women with children; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization honors the dignity of each person by offering hospitality and providing services, compassion, stewardship, leadership and collaboration, which is performed in an effort to instill hope and empower individuals to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth "Beth" Coco earned her bachelor's degree in Business, Economics and Entrepreneurial Management, and holds a certificate from Cornell University in Management and Supervisory Skills; in addition, Beth is a graduate of the FBI Citizens Leadership Academy and the

Capital Leadership Program of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of the State University of New York (SUNY), Empire State College, Beth Coco obtained her master's degree in Adult Workforce Education and Career Development, which is focused on identifying research-based principles and developing a set of key turning point principles for career advancement through an online community of practice; her graduate thesis was entitled "Women's Gateway to Economic Well-Being, An Open Education and Communities Approach, 2013"; and

WHEREAS, Beth Coco began her illustrious career as the University at Albany's first Entrepreneur-in-Residence; working through the Office for Innovation Development and Commercialization, she helped the University build a culture of entrepreneurship across the entire campus by engaging students, faculty and staff who had an interest in turning ideas into reality; and

WHEREAS, In this position, Beth Coco was also instrumental in launching a campus entrepreneur organization providing inspiration, experiential learning opportunities and entrepreneurial skill development to students; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Beth Coco founded MicroKnowledge, Inc. in New York's Capital Region; under her leadership, the company started with a mere 50 clients; today, the company works with more than 30,000 customers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Elizabeth Coco is the Chief Financial Well-Being Officer for SEFCU; in this capacity, she is responsible for establishing an institute for financial well-being which guides and enables members to focus on achieving economic stability and financial well-being; she does this by promoting financial health through advice, guidelines and tools and by developing methodologies for learning and skill building; and

WHEREAS, This astute businesswoman has more than 28 years of experi-

ence in company building, development and performance improvement; in a variety of executive roles, she has had extensive entrepreneurial success in customer relationship management, sales and procurement contracting, staff development, marketing, operations and managing technical personnel in information technology education, non-profit organizations and financial institutions; and

WHEREAS, Well-respected by her peers, Beth Coco consults on various subjects such as national training rollouts, use of technology in the workforce and changing job responsibilities due to implementing technology; she has developed and managed 400-plus technical documentation projects for private and public sector organizations, and actively mentors and advises small business entrepreneurs and executives; and

WHEREAS, Beth Coco's well-established method for success is accomplished by combining organic leadership skills with significant computer technology integration expertise and adult education industry experience; this method has resulted in increased revenues and geographic footprint, as well as accelerated business growth, product expansion, superb client satisfaction and industry reputation; and

WHEREAS, Beth Coco's great business acumen is based on her fundamental principle: "look at people as people, not as employees; if you let someone think creatively, think for the company, you are going to have great results"; and

WHEREAS, Beth Coco has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, For the last 15 years, Beth Coco has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Capital Bank and Trust, and now is a participant of the Advisory Council of Capital Bank, a Division of Chemung Canal Trust Company; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Beth Coco is an active member of the SUNY Empire State College Graduate Advisory Council, the Forum for Executive Women, the YWCA of Greater Capital Region Advisory Council, the Albany-Colonie

Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, as well as the American Society of Training and Development; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman served on the Sponsorship Council for the Northeast Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and was appointed as the

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liaison for the BayView Academy in Providence, Rhode Island; she is also an Associate of the Sisters of Mercy in Albany, New York, and is one of the founding Directors, and Past President of Circles of Mercy, Sisters of Mercy of America; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to women's causes, Beth Coco served as Team Leader and Chief Fundraiser for the Fit Tech Chicks, a team of 24 women dedicated to improving their health and raising funds for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Beth Coco has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unremitting commitment to her community and industry, Beth Coco has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the 2013 Women's Fund of the Capital Region for Trailblazing Woman, the 2010 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, the 2009 SUNY Empire State College Northeast Center Alumni Hall of Fame Award, the 2006 Best Technology Executive Award by the Alliance

of Technology & Women, and a 100 Women of Excellence Award by the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Under her guidance, MicroKnowledge has been honored with the Van Rensselaer Small Business Award by the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Nova Award from Equinox, Inc. in recognition of innovative program support, the 1997 Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence by the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the 1996 Capital Region Showcase Governor's Award for Science & Technology; and

WHEREAS, For the last six years, MicroKnowledge was named a Best Place to Work by the BUSINESS REVIEW; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Beth Coco has displayed throughout her life; 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 Elizabeth Coco upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Hope and Hospitality Award by Circles of Mercy on June 8, 2016, and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elizabeth Coco.