

2017-J1831

Senate Resolution No. 1831

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

COMMENDING Local 372 NYC Board of Education
Employees upon the occasion of hosting its Annual
Scholarship Dinner Dance on May 3, 2017

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of
and publicly acknowledge organizations and individuals of worthy purpose
whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in the great City
and 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
commend Local 372 NYC Board of Education Employees upon the occasion of
hosting its Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Wednesday, May 3, 2017,
aboard the Hornblower Infinity Yacht; and

WHEREAS, Founded by lunch worker Harry Gray, Local 372 is comprised
of approximately 23,000 New York City Board of Education Employees
working together for the benefit of its members and the children of New
York City public schools; and

WHEREAS, Harry Gray was a worker and a fighter who truly believed in
the power of people and the power of unions; in 1941, he began
organizing other workers who talked about forming a union; two years
later, his goal came to fruition when his "union talk" unified 500

Central Kitchen workers; and

WHEREAS, As more people got involved, the organizing efforts grew; Goodman "Goddie" Kerstein took over Harry's role and kept the momentum going, leading to the organization of not only the workers of Central Kitchen, but also the lunch workers in elementary schools; as more and more people joined the effort, Local 372 NYC Board of Education Employees was officially established; and

WHEREAS, In 1945, the members of Local 372 won their first pay increase of 15 cents, bringing them from 50 cents an hour to 65 cents an hour; the members also negotiated 20 vacation days and 12 sick days for all monthly/annual workers; and

WHEREAS, In 1946, members won the right to participate in the Board of Education retirement program; additionally, full-time workers' pay week was cut from 42 hours to 37.5 hours with no decrease in pay; and

WHEREAS, Since 2002, Local 372 has raised significant funding for scholarships to help children of members who are pursuing college degrees; many of these children are the first in their families to attend college; and

WHEREAS, The success of the City and State of New York, and of our nation, depends on organizations such as Local 372 NYC Board of Education Employees and its members who have dedicated their lives to nurturing our most precious resource, our children; and

WHEREAS, Labor unions, through the integrity and dedication of their leadership, have assumed an essential and integral role in ensuring the welfare, safety and economic stability of the workers of this State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Local 372 NYC Board of Education Employees upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on May 3, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Shaun D. Francois I, President, Local 372 NYC Board of Education Employees.