

## 2017-K528

Assembly Resolution No. 528

BY: M. of A. DenDekker

COMMENDING Gary LaBarbera upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2017 Italian American of the Year Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who foster ethnic pride and strive to preserve their cultural heritage, thereby enhancing the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of community throughout this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Gary LaBarbera upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2017 Italian American of the Year Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators to be celebrated on Monday, June 5, 2017, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 2009, Gary LaBarbera has served as President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, an organization comprising local affiliates of 15 national and international unions representing 100,000 working men and women in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Within weeks of assuming the esteemed position, Gary LaBarbera embarked on ambitious negotiations for project labor agreements (PLA) to provide labor cost savings to advance major public and private projects at risk of stalling due to the economic recession; and

WHEREAS, These vital efforts have resulted in project labor agreements for \$15 billion of public work with the City of New York and the New York City School Construction Authority, saving taxpayers more than \$300 million; this includes a landmark PLA with the New York City Housing Authority which provides men and women across the five boroughs with a path to middle class careers in the building trades through their pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs; and

WHEREAS, Gary LaBarbera also forged a historic agreement with the City as part of its Build It Back program that ensures Sandy-impacted residents will represent no less than 20% of those employed in rebuilding efforts; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the public sector, Gary LaBarbera has helped bring approximately \$25 billion of private work under project labor agreements in New York City, creating thousands of union construction jobs in the process; and

WHEREAS, Under Gary LaBarbera's leadership, the building trades have become a model of inclusivity; of the 8,000 men and women enrolled in apprenticeship programs as of 2012, 75% were residents of the five boroughs and 65% were minorities; and

WHEREAS, Gary LaBarbera continues to work to expand these opportunities to every corner of the city, having forged alliances with community groups including ALIGN and New York Communities for Change;

and

WHEREAS, Prior to his tenure as President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, Gary LaBarbera served organized labor in several other capacities, including as President of the New York City Central Labor Council, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Joint Council 16, and President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 282; and

WHEREAS, Having been actively involved in the Teamsters since the early 1980s, Gary LaBarbera was one of the first members of Local 282 to graduate from the Labor Studies Program at Cornell University's School of Industrial Labor Relations in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Gary LaBarbera is Founder/Chairman of the Board of the New York City Chapter of Helmets to Hardhats, an organization that has placed over 500 veterans in careers in the construction industry across the five boroughs since 2013; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Gary LaBarbera is the President/CEO of the Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills, which has placed more than 1,600 high school students from underserved areas throughout New York City into apprentice programs; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Gary LaBarbera is the Vice President of the New York City Central Labor Council, Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO, and Vice Chairman of the New York Building Congress; and he serves on the New York City Regional Economic Development Council and the Exploited Worker Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Moving forward, under the direction of Gary Mr. LaBarbera, the building trades will play a leading role in addressing challenges

shaping the country's future, including the development and revitalization of its critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Gary LaBarbera will focus on introducing new innovations to the construction industry that will drive continued growth and ensure the organization's affiliated unions remain equipped to successfully compete in a rapidly changing environment; he will also continue to be a strong advocate for worker safety and the expansion of protections for both union and non-union construction workers; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his numerous business commitments, Gary LaBarbera is actively involved in several charities and educational programs, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America - Greater NY Council, the Ronald McDonald House and the Metropolitan Outreach Project; 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 commend Gary LaBarbera upon the occasion of his designation as recipient

of the 2017 Italian American of the Year Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gary LaBarbera.