

2017-J5652

Senate Resolution No. 5652

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING Joe Torre upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2018 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 Joe Torre upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2018 Italian American of the Year Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators to be celebrated on Monday, June 4, 2018, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Hall of Famer Joe Torre currently serves as Major League Baseball's Chief Baseball Officer, overseeing all baseball operations; since 2011, he has been the Office of the Commissioner's primary liaison to the general managers and field managers of the 30 Major League Clubs and the Major League Umpires; and

WHEREAS, Joe Torre, a manager for 29 seasons, ranks fifth all-time with 2,326 managerial wins; he led the New York Yankees to four World Series Championships, six American League pennants and 12 Postseason appearances in his 12 years (1996-2007) as manager; and

WHEREAS, The two-time American League Manager of the Year also led the New York Mets (1977-1981), the Atlanta Braves (1982-1984), the St. Louis Cardinals (1990-1995) and the Los Angeles Dodgers (2008-2010); and

WHEREAS, Joe Torre made his managerial debut with the Mets on May 31, 1977, becoming the first player-manager in the Majors since 1959; he went on to manage Team USA in the World Baseball Classic in 2013, and served as the General Manager for WBC Champion Team USA in 2017; and

WHEREAS, During his exceptional 18-year playing career with the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves (1960-1968), the Cardinals (1969-1974) and the Mets (1975-1977), the nine-time All-Star compiled a .297 batting average, 2,342 hits and 252 home runs; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he was the National League's 1971 Most Valuable Player, batting .363 with 24 home runs and a league-leading 137 RBI; and

WHEREAS, On December 9, 2013, the National Baseball Hall of Fame announced its Expansion Era Committee had unanimously elected Joe Torre to its Class of 2014; he was inducted into the Hall of Fame on July 27, 2014, in Cooperstown, New York; and

WHEREAS, On August 23, 2014, Joe Torre's number six was retired by the Yankees, making him the 17th individual to receive such an honor; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Joe Torre is the Chairman of the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation, which he and his wife, Ali, launched in 2002, to develop educational programs in an effort to end the cycle of domestic violence and save lives; since its inception, the Foundation has educated thousands of students, parents, teachers and school faculty about the devastating effects of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Joe Torre is the co-author of three books entitled, The Yankee Years, Joe Torre's Ground Rules for Winners, and Chasing the Dream; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Ali, with him throughout have been his four children, Michael, Cristina, Lauren and Andrea, who have all shown him love and support and rejoice in his many achievements; 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 Joe Torre upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2018 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 Joe Torre.