

## 2017-J5756

Senate Resolution No. 5756

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 40th Anniversary of Fritz's  
Polka Band

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those musicians who have brought entertainment and cultural enrichment to the citizens of the great 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 commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Fritz's Polka Band; and

WHEREAS, Fritz's Polka Band (FPB) was formed in 1978 by lead accordionist, the late Fred Scherz Sr., and his eight-year old son, Fritz, for whom the band was named; and

WHEREAS, With the passing of Fred Scherz Sr. on November 14, 2009, FPB members vowed to carry on his legacy; the members include: Fritz Scherz, piano accordion, button-box accordion, vocals; Gabe Vaccaro, bass guitar, guitar, vocals; Frank Nelson, guitar, vocals; and Mike Faraino, drums; and

WHEREAS, Playing everything from modern-style polka to country to rock and even blues, Fritz's Polka Band performs an eclectic mix of musical styles, and is renowned for breaking the "polka" stereotype; and

WHEREAS, Fritz's Polka Band is the first polka band to perform at a Woodstock Festival, and on October 7, 2010, the band was inducted into the Syracuse Area Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Sponsored by Coldcock Whiskey, Fritz's Polka Band has made 18 recordings, which have achieved international airplay; and

WHEREAS, As a group, Fritz's Polka Band has performed on stage with Canada's Polka King and Grammy Award winner Walter Ostanek, America's Polka King and Grammy Award winner the late Frank Yankovic, Grammy nominated LynnMarie Rink, and Glen Burtnik; and

WHEREAS, Individually, Fritz has performed on-stage with Steve Augeri, the former lead singer of Journey, and Charles Giordano, the current accordionist/keyboardist for Bruce Springsteen; and

WHEREAS, Fritz's Polka Band has performed at B.B. King's Club, The China Club, and The Metropolitan Club too; in 2011, the band also had two different songs appear in episodes of the hit cable television show "Breaking Bad"; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Fritz's Polka Band has shared the stage with Skid Row, Sean Kingston, New Boyz, Jimmy Sturr and BeauSoleil, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the music of our Nation, to honor our artists and musicians, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; as we celebrate the music, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which music is truly the expression of the soul; and

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form presented, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be underestimated; individuals who provide a means of preserving a part of our rich American past and which contribute to the community in such noble endeavors as aforementioned, are held in the highest regard by this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Fritz's Polka Band; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Fritz's Polka Band.