

2019-J33

Senate Resolution No. 33

BY: Senator BRESLIN

HONORING Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Harvey Milk Award by the Pride Center of the Capital Region

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the profound impact of those exemplary individuals within the great State of New York who proactively work for the enfranchisement of minority communities, and the importance of such work for the benefit of all citizens of this State, and indeed, all citizens of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Harvey Milk Award by the Pride Center of the Capital Region to be celebrated at its Annual Awards Gala on Friday, October 19, 2018, at the Albany Capital Center, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event benefits the Pride Center of the Capital Region and celebrates the important contributions of individuals who work hard to empower the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious award is given to a person in the community whose work emulates the ideals of Harvey Milk; Dr. Raymond H.

Werking, Jr. truly "talks the talk and walks the walk"; and

WHEREAS, A beloved English teacher and professor, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr.'s life parallels that of Harvey Milk in many ways; he was a passionate advocate for education and won three spirited elections to the East Greenbush Central School District Board of Education; in 2003, his win is thought to be the largest proportionate win ever in a contested school board election; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. accomplished numerous goals; he established the first intramural sports league in the nation which included special needs students in 1975, and diligently worked on behalf of blue collar workers, earning him two major awards from the CSEA; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. used an obscure case law to establish a "legitimate GSA with a paid advisor" in his alma mater, Columbia High School; subsequently, the school's GSA was the recipient of the Paul Postiglione Award in the first month of its existence; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong educator, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr., affectionately known as Dr. Ray, is well-known for his 13-year role as the Host, Executive Producer, and a cleared engineer of WRPI's "HomoRadio", the most listened to college radio program in the world; he works an average of three days per week preparing the show and interviewing both regional and international guests; during his tenure, the show has increased from two hours to four hours, and the ratings have skyrocketed; and

WHEREAS, For the last two decades, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. has

also worked tirelessly with LGBTQ+ youth at risk; he serves as co-host on a weekly podcast for A Thousand Moms, an organization for LGBTQ+ youth in foster/adoptive care; and

WHEREAS, For his many and valuable contributions to society, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades; as a retired member of the GLSEN Board of Directors, Dr. Ray accepted the organization's Ally of the Year Award on behalf of "HomoRadio" in 2016, and presented the Keynote Address at GLSEN'S Breaking the Silence event the following year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. also received the 2009 Community Service Award by the Capital Pride Center and the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award by A Thousand Moms; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. received commendations of valor from the DEA, FBI, and the New York State Police for his courage while participating in the largest undercover drug investigation in New York State history at that time; and

WHEREAS, In everything that he thinks, says and does, Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. is guided by the same mantra as Harvey Milk: "You gotta give 'em hope!"; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the

recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State;
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Harvey Milk Award by the Pride Center of the Capital Region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Raymond H. Werking, Jr.