

2009-J500

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Robert Harlem, Sr. upon the occasion of receiving the Eugene A. Bettiol, Jr. Distinguished Citizen Award from the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce on April 3, 2009

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character who have inspired and brought pride to our majestic Empire State with their strong contributions to the community and their model citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Robert Harlem, Sr. upon the occasion of receiving the Eugene A. Bettiol, Jr. Distinguished Citizen Award from the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce at its Annual Banquet and Celebration of Business on April 3, 2009, at the Hunt Union Ballroom on the campus of the SUNY College at Oneonta; and

WHEREAS, A member of both the New York State and the Otsego County Bar Associations, Robert Harlem, Sr. was admitted to practice law in the State of New York in 1953; well known for many years as a great trial lawyer, he was elected the Otsego County and surrogate court judge in 1972; and

WHEREAS, With widespread support of the bar associations in several counties, Robert Harlem, Sr. was nominated for supreme court judge in 1978 and was subsequently elected in the Sixth Judicial District; he retired from the bench in 1991, and resumed a private practice of law with his son, Richard A. Harlem; and

WHEREAS, A true citizen of Otsego County, Robert Harlem, Sr. believes in giving back to the region he loves so much; he incorporated the Oneonta Boys and Girls Club in 1955 and has served on its board there

since and also performed the incorporation of Opportunities for Otsego;
and

WHEREAS, Despite his busy professional life, Robert Harlem, Sr. has compiled an impressive record of civic and charitable service; he served as a director of the Oneonta Country Club from 1982 to 1989 and was president for two years; a trustee of the Oneonta Elks Club, chairman of the board of the Oneonta Indians Football Team, Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus from 1962 to 1970 and a member of the Fox Hospital Foundation since 1998; and

WHEREAS, A member of St. Mary's Church for his entire life, Robert Harlem, Sr. has been a donor for many years as well as serving as the attorney for the Holy Name Society and Newman House; he has also been involved with Orpheus Theater and Hartwick College, where he has participated in many functions over the years; 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Robert Harlem, Sr. upon the occasion of receiving the Eugene A. Bettiol, Jr. Distinguished Citizen Award from the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce on April 3, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert Harlem, Sr.