

## 2009-J5164

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rocco B. Commisso upon the occasion of his designation as the 2010 Business Person of the Year and Hall of Fame Inductee by the SUNY New Paltz School of Business

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are enhanced by the concerned and dedicated efforts of business organizations and individuals that generously contribute to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rocco B. Commisso upon the occasion of his designation as the 2010 Business Person of the Year and Hall of Fame Inductee by the SUNY New Paltz School of Business; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at the Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston, New York; and

WHEREAS, The School of Business at the State University of New York at New Paltz is committed to educating and developing students to be competent business professionals in a global economy; teaching is its primary mission, which is complemented by its commitments to acquire and apply knowledge through scholarly and professional activities, and to serve its colleagues in the academic and business communities; and

WHEREAS, Rocco B. Commisso's illustrious career in the cable television industry spans three decades; he is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Mediacom Communications Corporation, a company he founded in 1995 in the basement of his home to acquire and reinvigorate cable systems in the nation's underserved smaller communities; and

WHEREAS, Together with his dedicated management team, Rocco B. Commisso took Mediacom public in 2000 and engineered its dramatic growth into

the nation's 8th largest cable operator with annual revenues exceeding \$1.4 billion; with its corporate offices in Middletown, New York, and 4,500 employees in 22 states, Mediacom is the leading provider of advanced broadband services to 1.4 million customers in over 1,500 small cities and towns across America; and

WHEREAS, Rocco B. Commisso began his business career at Pfizer Inc.'s manufacturing facility in Brooklyn, New York; after graduating from business school in 1975, he spent a decade in the financial community, initially at The Chase Manhattan Bank and then at Royal Bank of Canada, where he led the bank's United States lending activities to companies in the media and communications sectors; and

WHEREAS, From 1986 to 1995, Rocco B. Commisso served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Cablevision Industries Corporation; during his tenure there, privately-held Cablevision Industries grew from the 25th to the 8th largest cable company in the nation, serving over 1.3 million customers at the time of its merger with Time Warner; and

WHEREAS, Rocco B. Commisso serves on the executive committees and Board of Directors of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association and Cable Television Laboratories, Inc.; he is also on the Board of Directors of the National Italian American Foundation and C-SPAN, and is a member of the Cable TV Pioneers; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Rocco B. Commisso is the recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the National Italian American Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award; in 2007, he was inducted into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame; in 2008, he served as Co-Chair of the Cable Show, the industry's premier annual event and in 2009, he was the recipient of the Vanguard Award for Distinguished Leadership, the cable

industry's highest honor, and his company, Mediacom, was named the nation's best cable company by CABLEFAX MAGAZINE; and

WHEREAS, Born in Calabria, Italy, Rocco B. Commisso immigrated to the

United States at age 12; he earned both a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Columbia University; while at Columbia, he was co-captain of the varsity soccer team and was elected president of the business school student body; in 2004, on the 250th anniversary of Columbia's founding, the school's daily newspaper listed him as one of its 250 greatest alumni; 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 recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rocco B. Commisso upon the occasion of his designation as the 2010 Business Person of the Year and Hall of Fame Inductee by the SUNY New Paltz School of Business; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rocco B. Commisso.