

## 2009-J5476

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dante J. Orsini upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition on May 29, 2010

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Dante J. Orsini upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition on Saturday, May 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Born on May 29, 1920, Dante J. Orsini grew up in South Glens Falls, New York; he graduated from Saint Mary's Academy of Glens Falls in 1938 and went on to complete a post-graduate year at South Glens Falls High School in 1939; while at both schools, he participated in varsity baseball, basketball, football and soccer; and

WHEREAS, On May 4, 1940, Dante J. Orsini enlisted in the United States Marine Corps; after boot training at Paris Island, South Carolina, he was chosen to attend the Marine Corps Institute in Washington, D.C., where he became Chief Clerk of the school administration; and

WHEREAS, While stationed in Washington (1940-1943), Dante J. Orsini was selected to serve with the White House and U.S. Capitol Guard; as part of this detail he attended the Inaugural Ball, acted as one of 12 Marine Security detail at the dedication of the Jefferson Memorial and participated in over 30 funerals at the Arlington National Cemetery at Marine security-honor guard; and

WHEREAS, On December 7, 1941, Dante J. Orsini was playing basketball at the Naval War College when he was informed of the Pearl Harbor attack by the Japanese; on December 8, 1941, he was part of a contingent of

Marines who were security at the House of Representatives when President Roosevelt asked a joint session of Congress for a declaration of war against Japan; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1943, Dante J. Orsini was named First Sergeant of 3rd Company; shortly thereafter, he was promoted to Sergeant Major, the highest enlisted rank, and at the age of 23, possibly the youngest Sergeant Major in the United States Marine Corps at that time; and

WHEREAS, Dante J. Orsini was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant USMC on January 12, 1944, at Quantico, Virginia; after 12 weeks, he resigned commission and returned to Sergeant Major rank; and

WHEREAS, As Battalion Sergeant Major, Dante J. Orsini was transferred to the First Marine Division, training in Camp LeJeune, North Carolina; after two months, the Division left for overseas duty in the South Pacific; he participated and saw action during the invasion of the island of Guam, (1944) where the Marines built airfields for B29 aircraft; and

WHEREAS, In June 1945, the Marines landed on Okinawa, the last battle in the South Pacific; Dante J. Orsini's battalion (11th Marines) saw action at the NAHA Airport and Shuri Castle; while temporarily attached to the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa, he received a letter of commendation from the Commanding General for duties performed as a member of a special forces unit; and

WHEREAS, In December 1945, the First Marine Division was ordered to Peking, China, to take control of the U.S. Embassy; after several skirmishes, the Marines took command of the Embassy from the Communists; during this time, he became the Sergeant Major of the First Division; and

WHEREAS, The First Division was ordered home in February 1946 and Dante J. Orsini was honorably discharged at Bainbridge, Maryland on February 15, 1946, after six years of valiant and distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his impeccable service as a United States Marine, Dante J. Orsini received a multitude of awards and accolades including a Division Crest for his service as Sergeant Major of the First Marine Division as well as several Presidential Unit Citations for his service with the Navy and Marine Corps Asiatic and Pacific Meritorious Unit; and WHEREAS, Upon his return home, Dante J. Orsini married his wife Hazel (Deeb) on March 3, 1946, in St. Mary's Church in Glens Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, Dante J. Orsini joined the Scott Paper Company in Fort Edward, New York, in October of 1949; throughout his esteemed career, he held several managerial positions including serving as the Data Processing Manager for 10 years; after 32 years of dedicated service he retired as the Materials Handling Manager on January 1, 1982; and

WHEREAS, While employed at the Scott Paper Company, Dante J. Orsini was Treasurer and Director of Scott Association, the Company Employee Benefit and Recreational Organization for over 15 years; he attended many schools on management and financing held annually in Philadelphia and Detroit; he also completed a three-year course in practical accounting with LaSalle University; and

WHEREAS, Despite his busy professional life, Dante J. Orsini has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Dante J. Orsini has been a member of the South Glens Falls Rotary Club since 1961; he has proudly served as its Secretary and President and has been a Chairman of several committees including Attendance, Classifications, Programs, Membership, Rotary Information, Public Relations, and Special Awards; and

WHEREAS, He also served on several District committees and has attended many district conferences and assemblies; for several years he was Chairman of Secretary/Treasurer seminars at District Assembly; and WHEREAS, The South Glens Falls Rotary named him a Paul Harris Fellow in 1987; in 1988, he was named Rotarian of the Year by his peers and in

2003, he was honored by the Club for his many years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Dante J. Orsini is a 60 year member, past President and current Board member of his local Chamber of Commerce; he is also a 60 year member and past Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Memorial Detachment No. 2; additionally, he is a 60 year member of the American Legion and a 50 year member of the St. Michael's Church and Parish; and

WHEREAS, Dante J. Orsini has also served as Trustee and Deputy Mayor of the Village of South Glens Falls, Chairman of the Water Pollution Abatement Program; President of the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.; President of the Glens Falls Youth Center; and President of the South Glens Falls Senior High PTA; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Dante J. Orsini has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Hazel, their four children, as well as their five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Dante J. Orsini has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Dante J. Orsini, a very active and industrious nonagenarian, has inspired and enriched the lives of his family and friends through his love and respect for others, generously sharing the wisdom gained over years of experiencing life to its fullest; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and commend those who have witnessed and contributed to the developments and achievements of our Nation, State, and communities over the course of their noteworthy lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dante J. Orsini upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition on May 29, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dante J. Orsini.