

2009-J5583

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating James B. DeStefano upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for 30 years of distinguished service

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 individuals that generously contribute to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate James B. DeStefano upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for 30 years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, Occupations, Inc. was founded in 1963 by the parents of seven developmentally disabled youth desiring employment opportunities for their children; it is one of Orange County's largest human services providers and is a successful, complex, highly respected, progressive and competitive community-based rehabilitation agency that provides over 14,000 children, adults and families each year with high quality care and confidential treatment; and

WHEREAS, James B. DeStefano is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Occupations, Inc.; he brings over 30 years of experience providing organizational leadership to its expanding program development and operations, human resources, strategic planning and financial management of a multimillion dollar corporate system; his expertise has positioned

the agency to provide diverse services to over 13,000 people per year;
and

WHEREAS, Over the past 30 years, James B. DeStefano has directed staff growth at Occupations, Inc. from 125 to more than 1,100; led multi-million dollar physical plant renovations; operated services in more than 63 locations; expanded organizational operations; and successfully led and inspired a talented senior leadership team; and

WHEREAS, Having affected positive change through his service as Chairperson and other leadership roles on the Board of Directors of the New York State Rehabilitation Association, James B. DeStefano is highly regarded in Orange County and New York State for his business acumen and advocacy for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, A strong and respected leader in the field of rehabilitation, James B. DeStefano was the 1997 recipient of the Crystal Run Village Community Service Award and the 2001 recipient of the NISH East Person of the Year Award; his personal values are demonstrated daily as a committed, intelligent, compassionate, honorable leader; and

WHEREAS, James B. DeStefano is recognized as an industry leader in the implementation of AbilityOne contracts employing people with disabilities; he leads and inspires from a personal value system and a passion for integration of person-centered outcomes for people living with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of a Master's of Education degree in counseling and personnel service from the University of Missouri in 1972, James B. DeStefano received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Edinboro State College; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, James B. DeStefano has

stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individ-

ual for the benefit of others which James B. DeStefano has displayed throughout his life; 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 congratulate James B. DeStefano upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for 30 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James B. DeStefano, President and Chief Executive Officer, Occupations, Inc., 15 Fortune Road West, Middletown, New York 10941.