

2009-J5701

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Phil Cordella upon the occasion of his retirement after 31 years as an educator and involved member of his profession and his community

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Phil Cordella upon the occasion of his retirement after 31 years as an educator and involved member of his profession and his community; and

WHEREAS, Born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 5, 1955, the youngest of the three sons of proud second generation Italian American immigrants, Rose and Phil Cordella, Phil Cordella and his brothers Dennis and Richard were raised in the tight knit Brooklyn community of Dyker Heights; and

WHEREAS, Phil Cordella was accepted into one of New York City's four specialized high schools, Brooklyn Tech; originally enrolled in the architectural program, he transferred to the College Prep course of study and graduated in 1973 having had the opportunity to spend his last half year of high school interning with a group of feminist activists at the Day Care Consultation Service; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Phil Cordella entered SUNY New Paltz, where, an activist from his earliest days, he immediately organized a College Student Union and learned and practiced the power of collective action; and

WHEREAS, By 1977, Phil Cordella had completed the requirements for an undergraduate degree with majors in Sociology and Political Science and a minor in Women Studies, but still needed to complete the professional educational coursework and student teaching to achieve his goal of becoming a certified Social Studies teacher so he remained at New Paltz for another semester and did his student teaching at Newburgh Free Academy and graduated; and

WHEREAS, After subbing in the Middletown school district, Phil Cordel-

la went on to earn a master's degree in Special Education from CUNY Hunter College in New York City where he worked for two years; once permanently certified in a new field, Special Education, he returned to Newburgh and began his career as a Special Education Teacher in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District in 1981 at South Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, Phil Cordella was assigned to Room 100 with a class of self-contained emotionally disturbed Junior High School students; soon he was a Newburgh Teachers' Association (NTA) union delegate and was laying out and designing "The Pendulum" and was representing its members at state and national conferences, and he also became actively involved in VOTE-COPE (Voice Of Teachers in Education-Committee On Political Education), New York State United Teachers' (NYSUTs') nonpartisan political action arm; and

WHEREAS, In 1989 he became an Attendance Teacher and served in that capacity for 15 years until the 2004 -2005 school year, when he assumed the position of President of the Newburgh Teachers' Association; and

WHEREAS, Phil Cordella has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unrelenting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at South Junior High School and throughout the Newburgh Enlarged City School District; and

WHEREAS, In completing his career as an educator, Phil Cordella leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; he leaves behind a legacy to the residents of the South Junior High School and Newburgh communities and to future generations of their students; and

WHEREAS, As members of the Newburgh community and his colleagues, family and friends gather to honor Phil Cordella at the Nu-Cava Restaurant in Wallkill on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize Phil Cordella for his dedication and achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Phil Cordella upon the occasion of his retirement, to commend him for his significant contributions to education in New York State and to wish him well in his retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Phil Cordella.