

2011-J324

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Donna and Phil Vallone upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2010 SYDA Foundation Community Service Award

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Donna and Phil Vallone have given not only of their time and energies to the Sullivan County community but also of their competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently have been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Donna and Phil Vallone upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2010 Community Service Award by the SYDA Foundation to be celebrated at its 25th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, September 16, 2010; and

WHEREAS, The SYDA Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that makes Siddha Yoga meditation available to students around the world; in addition, this valuable organization contributes to the local community through annual donations to the Fallsburg Police Department, local fire departments, the Fallsburg School District and the Catskill Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, individuals who practice Siddha Yoga are members of civic and service organizations that benefit the community and the local environment; and

WHEREAS, Donna and Phil Vallone have dedicated themselves to ensuring the safety of young people and to strengthening the vibrancy of the town and county in which they live; and

WHEREAS, Donna and Phil Vallone both have a long history in Sullivan County; Phil moved to the area with his family at the age of 11; Donna

grew up in Staten Island and spent summers in the area; the couple first met here in Sullivan County at a young age; some years later, they met again as adults in New York City and were married in 1985; and

WHEREAS, At the time, Phil Vallone was the owner of a bus company in Queens; in 1990, he obtained the Fallsburg School District bus contract; Phil and Donna returned to Sullivan County and established the Rolling V Bus Corporation in South Fallsburg; the family settled beside the Willowemoc Creek where they built their house and raised their two children, Phil Jr. and Nicholas; and

WHEREAS, As the boys grew older, Donna Vallone restored cabins, previously owned by Phil's father, and developed a vacation property called Creekside Cabins; it has become a Sullivan County destination for visitors from as far away as Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, As president of the Rolling V Bus Corp, Phil Vallone developed a school bus service for children which has won awards for its impeccable safety record; in Sullivan County alone, Rolling V, with its more than 275 employees, transports over 6,000 individuals a day, mostly young people; and

WHEREAS, The company gives priority to quality of service, integrity, and loyalty to staff, customers, and community; and for Phil Vallone the most important thing is safety; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, when two Livingston Manor teens died in a tragic car accident, Phil helped institute a driver safety program for young people called Alive at 25; this program, created by the National Safety Council, is designed to help young drivers learn to drive more carefully; for the past four years, the schools in all six Sullivan County districts have offered the program to several thousand students; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Donna and Phil Vallone have established the annual Rolling V Scholarship in the Livingston Manor School District -- a \$1,500 college grant for the senior who has improved the most in their four years of high school; this award, which has been offered for the

past 17 years, benefits students who work hard but otherwise would not receive recognition; and

WHEREAS, Donna and Phil Vallone are also strong supporters of the Boys and Girls Clubs and Community Unity, an organization that helps improve the quality of life for Sullivan County families, especially for children in need; and

WHEREAS, They are also active supporters of the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, Sullivan Renaissance, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, and the local fire department; furthermore, they are very committed to keeping Roscoe's main street alive and flourishing; and

WHEREAS, The quality of the Vallones' service to the community has not gone unnoticed; in 2007, Phil was named New York State's Bus Contractor of the Year; in 2009, he was honored as Business Man of the Year in Sullivan County by the Chamber of Commerce; in May of 2010 the Governor of New York appointed Phil to the State of New York's Comprehensive School Bus Driver Safety Council; and Donna and Phil have been recognized by Community Unity for their service to youth oriented and volunteer organizations in Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, Donna and Phil Vallone have been called upon to contribute their time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and have always given of themselves unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, Donna and Phil Vallone have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Donna and Phil Vallone have displayed throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Donna and Phil Vallone upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2010 SYDA Foundation Community Service Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Donna and Phil Vallone.