

## 2011-J811

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Yolanda and Emilio Suarez upon the occasion of their designation by the Bensonhurst West End Community Council as the recipients of the Couple of the Year Award at its Golden Anniversary Gala on March 24, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in the Empire State are greatly enriched by the faithful and generous service of those who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Yolanda and Emilio Suarez upon the occasion of their designation by the Bensonhurst West End Community Council as the recipients of the Couple of the Year Award at its Golden Anniversary Gala, to be held at The Riviera in Brooklyn on Thursday, March 24, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Bensonhurst West End Community Council (BWECC) proudly acts as a guardian of the community, working diligently and creatively to improve the quality of life of the community's residents, merchants, and children; and

WHEREAS, This year as it celebrates 50 years of service at its Golden Anniversary Gala, the Bensonhurst West End Community Council joyfully honors those who have distinguished themselves in service to their community as well as those who have supported the Council and have helped to further its efforts; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda and Emilio Suarez truly merit this high honor; and

WHEREAS, Jose Emilio de Jesus Suarez y Garcia was born and lived in Puebla, Mexico for fourteen years; on January 4, 1964, he and his family left their hometown and arrived in New York City the following day to make a new life for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Emilio Suarez attended Arthur Cunningham Junior High School where he gained some fluency in English and went on to graduate from James Madison High School in 1965, after which, in 1970, he earned an Associate in Applied Sciences degree in Design Drafting from what is now known as CUNY New York City Technical College and, later, a bachelor's

degree in Education from Buffalo State College; and  
WHEREAS, Emilio Suarez began his career in education in September 1973 as a teacher in Dutchess County at Rombout Middle School in Beacon, New York; in 1977, he started teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) in the Autonomous University of Puebla, Mexico; and  
WHEREAS, Yolanda Acevedo Nino de Rivera was also born in Puebla; one of seven children, she has five sisters and a brother; she met Emilio Suarez at the Autonomous University of Puebla in 1984 when she was working as an Executive Secretary in the University's Center of Linguistic Sciences; and  
WHEREAS, In 1988, after Emilio and Yolanda's marriage on February 16, 1985, Emilio Suarez did graduate study at the University of Essex in England, earning a master's degree in Applied Linguistics in 1989; in 1991, Emilio started working at Boricua College in New York City as an Educational Facilitator and full-time faculty member; and  
WHEREAS, Now living in New York City, it was important for Yolanda Suarez to learn English so Emilio Suarez approached the ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher at PS 95 and Yolanda became a volunteer in her classroom, where Yolanda could practice and learn English and, at the same time, help the children and the teacher; and  
WHEREAS, Yolanda and Emilio Suarez's sons Zvolemi and Angelzye were born in New York City; when their eldest son, Zvolemi, completed kindergarten, they moved and, in 1992, enrolled him, and subsequently Angelzye as well, at PS 153; both sons are now proud PS 153 graduates; and  
WHEREAS, Together, Yolanda and Emilio Suarez have ably and generously served the PS 153 community conducting ESL classes for parents, enabling many moms and dads to learn English through their enthusiastic and outstanding efforts; and  
WHEREAS, Professor Suarez has volunteered his time and services at PS 153 since 1992, when his son Zvolemi entered the school; his participation in the school's first Leadership Team and his service on the interviewing committee (C30) for an Assistant Principal are among the many ways he has contributed his time and talents to the school; and  
WHEREAS, For many years, from 1993-2003, Yolanda Suarez was a valued and involved volunteer at PS 153; in addition, she was the Corresponding Secretary of the Executive Board of the PS 153 PTA in 1997; two years later, in 1999, she became the Treasurer of the PTA; in 2000, she was

honored with District 21's Century Award in recognition of her positive impact on the District's children and families and, in 2001, she was elected President of the PS 153 PTA; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Suarez went to work for the Chinese-American Planning Council in its After-School Program as a Teacher Aide and was quickly promoted to Group Leader; her passion and capability in helping children with their homework and in leading group activities were evident and, in the year 2000, she was promoted to the position of Program Activities Specialist; and, a year later, she became the Assistant Site Director; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, when the New York City Department of Education introduced the full-time position of Parent Coordinator, Yolanda Suarez was chosen from among 50 applicants as the first full-time Parent Coordinator at PS 153, and she continues serving, most ably, as a liaison between the parents and staff at PS 153 during the day, and after school at the Chinese-American Planning Council's After-School Program; and WHEREAS, Dedicated to her work and to serving the children and community she loves, in 2006, Yolanda Suarez completed a Southern California School of Interpretation program improving her ability to translate educational materials in order to better serve her beloved PS 153 community; and

WHEREAS, Esteemed and concerned members of the Bensonhurst community, Yolanda and Emilio Suarez believe deeply in, and never miss an opportunity to emphasize the importance of mastering the English language and the subsequent rewards, opportunities, and responsibilities of receiving an education, raising a family, and living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals, such as Yolanda and Emilio Suarez, who distinguish themselves in their professions and work to meet the needs of their community and its citizens with diligence and compassionate commitment to improving the quality of life in the community are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Bensonhurst West End Community Council and to applaud Yolanda and Emilio Suarez upon the occasion of their designation by the Council as the recipients of the Couple of the Year Award at BWECC's Golden Anniversary Gala on March 24, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Yolanda and Emilio Suarez.