

## 2011-J1928

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Congregation Etz Chaim, and honoring Phyllis and Dr. Steven Siegel, and Dr. Shmuel Schneider upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Congregation Etz Chaim, and to honor Phyllis and Dr. Steven Siegel, and Dr. Shmuel Schneider upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition to be celebrated at a dinner on Sunday, May 22, 2011; and

WHEREAS, For 30 years Congregation Etz Chaim has been a significant part of the community in Kew Gardens Hills, raising funds for the shul, davening, providing kosher meals for holidays, organizing volunteers for the congregation, and convening celebratory dinners; and

WHEREAS, Phyllis Siegel, a wife, mother and grandmother, teaches math in the New York City Public Schools and at the New York Institute of Technology; is a member of the congregation's social, dinner and youth committees; and helps organize the Food for the Soul Friday night and Shabbat afternoon dinners, Simchat Torah lunch, and in-house "Chocolate Dreams"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Steven Siegel is a doctor of podiatric medicine for the Department of Veterans Affairs, prior to which he served for many years with the NYC Emergency Medical Service in the Bronx; teaches anatomy and physiology at Brooklyn and Nassau Community Colleges; has previously served as shut president twice, vice president, recording and corresponding secretaries and board member; has been a member of the Kiddush, house and social committees; co-chairs the annual raffle; coaches the Etz Chaim Little League; delivers Tomchei Shabbat; helps kasher the

kitchen for Pesach; and fills many other roles; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shmuel Schneider was born in Poland, and lived in Germany, Israel and Canada before relocating to New York City; served in the Israeli army; is a scholar in Modern Hebrew Literature and teaches at Yeshiva University; has held leadership positions in Jewish Studies and taught Talmud Torah, Hebrew language and literature at schools and universities in New York City and Toronto, Canada; and has published numerous journal articles in his field, written two books and is in pre-publication for two more; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Etz Chaim, a makom tefillah, is under the luminous direction of Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg; this vital institution traces its origins to 1981 when families came together to celebrate Shabbat, to foster a love for Eretz Yisroel and to provide a setting where everyone is welcome; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Etz Chaim stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of such enduring religious institutions as Congregation Etz Chaim and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Congregation Etz Chaim, and to honor

Phyllis and Dr. Steven Siegel and Dr. Shmuel Schneider upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg, Phyllis and Dr. Steven Siegel, and Dr. Shmuel Schneider.