

## 2011-J2266

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Chazz Palminteri for his commitment to preserving Italian American heritage

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment that provide opportunities to celebrate their rich ethnic flavor and which strive to preserve their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Chazz Palminteri for his commitment to preserving Italian American heritage to be observed at the Italian-American Day Celebration, in Albany, New York, on Monday, June 6, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Born on May 15, 1952, in the Bronx, New York, Calogero Lorenzo Palminteri, known as Chazz, grew up in a rough neighborhood which taught him vital life lessons that would later prove very useful in pursuing his passion and lifework; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Theodore Roosevelt High School, Chazz Palminteri went on to foster his craft, of writing, acting, and directing, and in 1973, studied with Lee Strasberg at the Actors Studio; and

WHEREAS, Due to the negative stereotypes of the wise guys and hoodlums of the Italian-American community, Chazz Palminteri, through his dedication and hard work, has attempted to shed light on the accomplishments of his true hero, the working man, the glue that holds together all the Italian American communities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Chazz Palminteri has been a natural choice to continue the Italianate torch in film, bringing true grit, muscle, and an evocative realism to the sidewalks of his New York neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Well known for "A Bronx Tale", Chazz Palminteri originally wrote the semi-autobiographical script for the stage, and in 1988,

performed the masterpiece as a one-man show in Los Angeles, in which he played 18 different roles, before moving the production to New York; this outstanding performance earned him nominations for the New York Outer Critics Circle, for both acting and writing; and

WHEREAS, While in New York Chazz Palminteri completed the screenplay of "A Bronx Tale", and in 1993, found himself starring opposite Robert DeNiro in the film, who chose the script for his directorial debut; and

WHEREAS, Extremely talented and multifaceted, Chazz Palminteri has given acclaimed performances in film, television, and on stage, portraying both dramatic and comedic roles; he has also voiced characters in various animated films, and has written as well as directed, while always remaining true to his proud Italian American Heritage; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Chazz Palminteri received the 1996 Leadership in Entertainment Award from the Coalition of Italo-American Associations, Inc., and was honored by President Clinton with a Special Achievement Award for the Performing Arts from the National Italian American Foundation in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Chazz Palminteri earned high praise and an Academy Award nomination for his performance in "Bullets Over Broadway", in which he portrayed a gangster with unexpected dramaturgical gifts; this earned him an Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Actor, as well as nominations for a Screen Actors Guild Award, and an American Comedy Award; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Chazz Palminteri is the National Spokesperson for the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, leading the fight in finding a cure for Thalassemia; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Gianna, and their two children, Dante Lorenzo and Gabriella Rose, all of whom feel privileged to be part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those individ-

uals who foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Chazz Palminteri for his commitment to preserving Italian American heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Chazz Palminteri.