

2011-J3101

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Elissa Montanti upon the occasion of her designation as a recipient of the 2011 Woman of Achievement Award by the STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Elissa Montanti upon the occasion of her designation as a recipient of the 2011 Woman of Achievement Award by the STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE; this auspicious occasion was celebrated at the 50th Annual STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE Women of Achievement Luncheon, held on Thursday, November 17, 2011, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Staten Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE Women of Achievement program is to salute women who make extraordinary contributions to Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Women of Achievement Luncheon expresses the appreciation of the STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE to the recipients of its award for their good works, generous hearts and love of their fellow men and women; over the past 49 years the ADVANCE has honored 281 Women of Achievement; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Elissa Montanti of Arrochar, Staten Island, New York, answered a call for help from a 15-year old Bosnian boy named Kenan Malkic who had lost a leg and both arms to a land mine blast; and

WHEREAS, With no previous experience in non-profit work, Elissa Montanti orchestrated a one person campaign to bring Kenan Malkic to the United States from Bosnia and begin his medical treatments; she provided her own home as a refuge to the boy and his mother while he was undergoing treatment; and

WHEREAS, When Kenan Malkic grew out of his prosthetics, Elissa Montanti wanted to continue helping him and other children in his condition; she did so by founding the Global Medical Relief Fund, a non-partisan non-profit organization to bring children from war-torn corners of the world to the United States for much needed medical assistance; and

WHEREAS, To date, the Global Medical Relief Fund has been responsible for assisting 150 children ravaged by land mines, war or natural disaster by bringing them to the United States to receive prosthetic arms and legs, and to reclaim their youth, dignity and future; and

WHEREAS, Operating the Global Medical Relief Fund mostly on her own with the assistance of dedicated volunteers, Elissa Montanti and the Fund have also purchased a nearby residence to serve as a place where impacted children can reside when they are in the initial phase of their surgeries and the yearly follow-up treatments provided by the Fund; and

WHEREAS, Born in Arrochar, Staten Island, New York, Elissa Montanti graduated from New Dorp High School and worked at the former Doctors' Hospital in Grasmere for 16 years as a lab assistant; she also attended the College of Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, In the summer of 2012, Elissa Montanti will be releasing a book she has authored, entitled I'LL STAND BY YOU; part of the proceeds of her book will be donated to the Global Medical Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Elissa Montanti has

stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues, family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individ-

ual for the benefit of others which Elissa Montanti has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Elissa Montanti upon the occasion of her designation as a recipient of the 2011 Woman of Achievement Award by the STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elissa Montanti.