

2011-J3133

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rabbi Dr. Gilbert Klaperman, Esq. upon the occasion of his designation by the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway as the recipient of a special Lifetime Achievement Award at its 34th Annual Dinner on February 25, 2012

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in the Empire State are greatly enriched by the faithful and generous service of those who devote themselves to endeavors of family, faith and community, and to the education of the youth of the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals of such magnanimous conduct and bearing who demonstrate a deep and continuing concern for others, and in so doing, inspire others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rabbi Dr. Gilbert Klaperman, Esq. upon the occasion of his designation by the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway (HAFTR) as the recipient of a special Lifetime Achievement Award at its 34th Annual Dinner, to be held at the Sands of Atlantic Beach on Saturday, February 25, 2012; and

WHEREAS, The greatest asset of any society is its children and the hope and promise they represent for the future; the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway, of Lawrence, New York, has a proud and rich history of providing its students with an educational and religious foundation which is both strong and enduring; and

WHEREAS, Each year at its Annual Dinner, the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway honors members of the school community in recognition and appreciation of their support of the yeshiva and its mission, as well as of their dedication to Jewish life; this year at its 34th Annual Dinner it will, in addition, proudly recognize and honor the esteemed Rabbi Dr. Gilbert Klaperman, Esq. with a special Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Klaperman is widely recognized as being responsible for much of the Jewish life in the Five Towns today; upon moving to

Lawrence, he became the first Rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom and was instrumental in the building of the shul's current home in Lawrence; shortly thereafter, realizing that the Five Towns lacked a modern orthodox yeshiva, he, along with other community leaders, formed Hillel, the predecessor of HAFTR and then led the effort to purchase the land which is now the HAFTR Elementary School Campus; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being an ordained Rabbi, Rabbi Klaperman until recently was a practicing attorney, a Professor of Law at Hofstra School of Law and a Professor of Religion at the University of Iowa and Yeshiva University; he has also written several books including, with his late wife Libby, a four volume history of the Jews; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Klaperman has held many important leadership positions in the Jewish Community as well and has represented American Jewry in its relations with many heads of state and religious leaders of all denominations; and

WHEREAS, In 1956, as head of the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, he met with the leaders of the USSR on a fact-finding mission on the condition of Soviet Jews and, in 1987, as a member of a delegation of religious leaders, he met with Pope John Paul II on the subject of Jewish-Catholic relations; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Klaperman, in addition, served as Chairman of the Board at the World Academy in Jerusalem and is a Past President of the Synagogue Council of America, the Rabbinical Council of America, the Yeshiva

College Alumni Association, the Jewish Book Council of America and the New York Board of Rabbis; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Klaperman and his wife, Susan Alter, a former member of the New York City Council, have three children, four grandchildren and a recently born great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to extend its highest commendation to Rabbi Dr. Gilbert Klaperman, Esq. for his dedication and commitment to HAFTR, to his heritage and to his community and its children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Rabbi Dr. Gilbert Klaperman, Esq. upon the occasion of his designation by the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway as the recipient of a special Lifetime Achievement Award at its 34th Annual Dinner on February 25, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Dr. Gilbert Klaperman, Esq.