

2011-J4655

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring James Henry Riccardi posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Bishop Howard J. Hubbard Award by Living Resources

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those extraordinary individuals who have made contributions to the success and progress of society in the course of their life's work; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor James Henry Riccardi posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Bishop Howard J. Hubbard Award by Living Resources, to be celebrated on May 18, 2012, at The Albany Marriott; and

WHEREAS, Receiving this prestigious award in James Riccardi's honor will be his wife, Gayla; and

WHEREAS, Living Resources bestows this esteemed award on worthy community leaders who have shown an extended history of outstanding support for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Bishop Howard J. Hubbard Award is named after the founder and first President of the Living Resources Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, James "Jim" Riccardi was well-known as a successful and respected businessman, starting in the floral industry, and later becoming the founder and president of Materials Recovery Company; his drive for excellence in his work was matched only by his passionate commitment to the local community and to the rights of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of the Capital Region, James Riccardi grew up in a tight-knit family of 11 children, and entered the military right out of high school, and was a member of the first United States Marine troop sent to the Vietnam War; after the war, he returned to the

United States and joined his family's business, Seagroatt Floral Company, later branching out with his cousin, Ed, to form Seagroatt/Riccardi Floral Company; and

WHEREAS, James Riccardi married Gayla Snowden in 1982, and they soon had two sons, James, Jr. and Joseph; it was Joseph's disability which led Jim and Gayla to become active in the world of disability advocacy; Joseph is a graduate of Living Resources' College Experience Program at the College of Saint Rose, now living in a graduate apartment in Albany; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, James Riccardi started Materials Recovery Company in Troy, New York; the company was developed in order to recycle metals recovered from municipalities and other governmental organizations, reselling them to domestic and international consumers; over the years, he developed a strong business relationship in China, as well as with the local Chinese-American community; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Living Resources Corporation Board, Jim Riccardi was instrumental in helping the agency connect with disability service providers in China; this led to visits by Chinese delegations to Living Resources in order to learn about the agency and establishing vocational programs in China; and

WHEREAS, Although Jim Riccardi passed away in December of 2011, he left a legacy as a successful businessman, beloved family man, and a loyal and well-loved friend to so many people; his spirit enriched the community and will be forever missed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor James Henry Riccardi posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Bishop Howard J. Hubbard Award by Living Resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gayla Riccardi.