

## 2013-J3271

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring James W. Bennett, Esq. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Lifetime Achiever of the Year Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, on February 27, 2014

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 James W. Bennett, Esq. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Lifetime Achiever of the Year Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at the Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner, to be held on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at Samuel's Grande Manor, Williamsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, James W. Bennett, Esq. was born in Western New York; after graduating from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, he served overseas in the United States Army for two years, achieving the rank of Captain and receiving the Army Commendation Medal; and

WHEREAS, James W. Bennett is a founding partner and senior partner in the Bennett Schechter Arcuri & Will LLP law firm, practicing in the corporate and commercial field; for the last several years he has been listed in the Upstate New York Super Lawyers publication and has the highest rating provided by the Martindale Hubbell lawyer rating; and

WHEREAS, James W. Bennett moved to Clarence in 1982 and has been active in Clarence and throughout the entire Western New York community ever since in a wide variety of organizations and capacities; and

WHEREAS, A director of the Clarence Chamber of Commerce for the past several years, James W. Bennett chairs its Business Roundtable and the

Legislative/Governance programs; he also sits on the Advisory Board of the Clarence High School Academy of Business and Finance; and WHEREAS, For more than thirty-five years, he has been a member of Lions Club International, holding virtually every local office, and receiving the prestigious Robert Uplinger Distinguished Services Award for his work; in addition, he served two terms as President of Clarence's Brookfield Country Club, and was a director as well; and WHEREAS, James W. Bennett coached in the Clarence Girls Softball League for more than twenty years while also serving as a director of the league; he served on a committee to pursue the recreational use of the "Thunderbird" Girl Scout camp and, during that time, negotiated the purchase of land that was turned over to the town and now houses the Clarence Nature Center; he also served for more than twelve years as a director of the Pro-Zoo Board for the Buffalo Zoo; and WHEREAS, Finally, James W. Bennett is one of the founders of Family Promise of WNY, a homeless shelter involving churches of all denominations, serving as its President, as well as a Trustee for the twenty years of its Buffalo location; and WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, James W. Bennett has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, family and friends; and WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which James W. Bennett has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor James W. Bennett, Esq. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Lifetime Achiever of the Year Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James W. Bennett, Esq.