

2015-J259

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Saverio Spagnolo upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Saverio Spagnolo upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by a resolution in 2014 and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known as Sam, Saverio Spagnolo has been feeding people in Potsdam, New York for nearly 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Sam Spagnolo and his wife Carmela, were married June 14, 1959, in Italy; soon after, he joined his wife in the north country and opened a barber shop in Potsdam at what later became the Roxy Theatre; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, Sam Spagnolo and his wife opened up Sergi's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria along with his sister, Maria and her husband; one year later, the couple opened up Sergi's Restaurant & Pizzeria on Market

Street in Potsdam, and continue to operate at this location today; and

WHEREAS, Sam Spagnolo has hosted dozens of organizations in his restaurant, and has provided countless pizzas and Italian dishes to people within the community; and

WHEREAS, Throughout nearly five decades in business, Sam Spagnolo has given opportunities to hundreds of St. Lawrence County residents; he currently employs approximately 20 people, and has been recognized by several organizations, including the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce, for his continued excellence; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he received the Gertie LaBaff Community Service Award and was inducted into the Potsdam Central School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007; on the occasion of Sam and Carmela's 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2009, Canton-Potsdam Hospital dedicated its physician's lounge in their honor; and

WHEREAS, A longtime owner of racehorses, Sam Spagnolo's colts have raced in several states across the Northeast and into Canada; one of his horses, Dear Star, was a former World Champion in 1979; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Carmela, as well as their two children, Lisa and Frank, and four grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Sam Spagnolo continues to live his life with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for human values and ideals; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Sam Spagnolo, devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth, are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Saverio Spagnolo upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the

New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Saverio Spagnolo.