

2015-J479

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Bill Lia, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Kapner Spirit of the Chamber Award by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce on March 5, 2015

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 Bill Lia, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Kapner Spirit of the Chamber Award by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its 115th Annual Dinner on Thursday, March 5, 2015, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award is being presented by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce to Bill Lia, Jr. for his dedicated support of and service to the mission of the Chamber; and

WHEREAS, Originally from Brooklyn, New York, 46 year old Bill Lia, Jr. moved upstate with his family in 1979, when his father chose to pursue an opportunity in the auto business; and

WHEREAS, The company, which began as a small Honda dealership in Delmar, New York, has grown to a group of 18 dealerships, now known collectively as the Lia Auto Group, representing 12 different nameplates with sales of more than 25,000 vehicles per year; and

WHEREAS, In addition to dealerships in Albany, New York, the group has locations in Buffalo and Brewster, New York, Enfield and Hartford,

Connecticut, and Wilbraham and Northampton, Massachusetts; and
WHEREAS, Currently serving as co-President of the Auto Group, Bill Lia, Jr. has been involved in every aspect of the business for the past 24 years, including management, sales and marketing, acquisitions, accounting, finance, fixed operations, advertising, construction, and public relations; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after graduating from Siena College in 1990, with a Bachelor's degree in Finance, Bill Lia, Jr. was the driving force behind the Lia Group's decision to purchase the first Gold's Gym franchise in upstate New York, and oversaw the opening of its first location in Guilderland; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 22 years, under the able leadership of Bill Lia, Jr., the fitness business expanded to include three other Capital District Gold's Gym locations in Latham, Clifton Park and Niskayuna, and currently serves more than 20,000 members; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, after a year and a half of developing a new business plan, Bill Lia, Jr. made the decision to leave the Gold's Gym franchise system and create his own brand, VENT Fitness; and

WHEREAS, Bill Lia, Jr. has represented the Lia Auto Group in several automotive manufacturer organizations and related boards; he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce, and is the current Chair of the Business Services Corporation; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast dedication to the community, Bill Lia, Jr. has given of his time and energies to countless organizations, some of which include Northeast Parent and Child, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis, and Wildwood Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Miranda, and their four children, Mariana, Alexa, Billy and Anthony, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, In the faithful performance of his duties and volunteer

efforts, Bill Lia, Jr.'s ongoing endeavors and notable achievements have significantly contributed to bettering the quality of life in his community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Bill Lia, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Kapner Spirit of the Chamber Award by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce on March 5, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bill Lia, Jr.