

2015-J863

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Joseph and Angela Occhipinti, founders of the National Police Defense Foundation, upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition on May 6, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Joseph and Angela Occhipinti, founders of the National Police Defense Foundation, upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition to be celebrated at its 20th Annual Awards Dinner at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, New York, on Wednesday, May 6, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF) is a nationally renowned organization which provides free medical and legal support services to the law enforcement community, as well as funds a variety of public safety and law enforcement initiatives; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, retired Federal Agent Joseph Occhipinti and his wife, Angela, founded the National Police Defense Foundation; for the past two decades, they have devoted their time and energies into developing one of the largest police organizations which provides free medical and legal support services to the law enforcement community; and

WHEREAS, Today, the National Police Defense Foundation has over 205,000 members and supporters throughout the nation and in 12 foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Occhipinti has served as the National Police Defense Foundation's Executive Director and Angela Occhipinti was the Office

Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Joseph and Angela Occhipinti developed the Safe Cop program which offers a monetary reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who shoots at a law enforcement officer in the United States; this program was instrumental in the arrest and conviction of numerous defendants who either shot or killed an officer; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Joseph and Angela Occhipinti established the multi-faceted Operation Kids safety program which also arranges life-saving operations and medical treatment for critically ill children nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Joseph and Angela Occhipinti founded several associations, including the Police Chiefs Coalition, the Firefighters & EMS Foundation (FEF), State Troopers Coalition, Federal Officers Coalition, and the Deputy Sheriffs and Peace Officers Foundation; and

WHEREAS, FEF is the proud sponsor of the Save a First Responder program, which posts a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who commits arson or any other criminal act which results in the death of an on-duty Firefighter or EMS personnel; and

WHEREAS, Joseph and Angela Occhipinti have received numerous awards and accolades for their impressive humanitarian efforts; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, intellect and commitment as that demonstrated by Joseph and Angela Occhipinti over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; 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 commend Joseph and Angela Occhipinti, founders of the National Police Defense Foundation, upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition on May 6, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joseph and Angela Occhipinti.