

## 2015-J895

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ray Bell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Bethlehem Toastmasters Club

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bell has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ray Bell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Bethlehem Toastmasters Club; this momentous occasion was celebrated at its Annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Toastmasters International (TI) is a nonprofit educational organization that operates clubs worldwide for the purpose of helping members improve their communication, public speaking, and leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Northeastern University with a degree in Civil Engineering, Ray Bell began his illustrious career with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 1960, where he remained for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, As a Bridge Designer and subsequently an Air Pollution Control Engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation, Ray Bell served the Capital District and Syracuse areas; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bell has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, Ray Bell joined the Campus Toastmasters Club, later known as the Patroon Club, to better his public speaking; and

WHEREAS, After beginning a special project in 1995, Ray Bell achieved the highest level of Toastmasters International, the distinguished Toastmaster Award; this culminated in the creation of the Bethlehem Toastmasters Club in 1996, where he was one of its Charter Officers; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bell served as a Toastmasters Club officer in several capacities and organization levels, including Area and Division Governor; in addition to the Bethlehem Club, he is also a member of the Albany Stratton VA Toastmasters, and the Apopka Toastmasters Club in Florida, where he and his wife spend the winter months; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong hiker and outdoor recreationist, Ray Bell completed the Adirondack 46, the Appalachian Trail, a portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail, and the highest peaks in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, these activities provided Ray Bell with ample material for his speeches at Toastmaster Meetings, and allowed him to help both old and new members achieve the various levels of Toastmasters speaking and leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Ray Bell has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Beth, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Ray Bell has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ray Bell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Bethlehem Toastmasters Club; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ray Bell.