

## 2015-J1245

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mary Fiorillo Lentini upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany

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, Mary Fiorillo Lentini has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mary Fiorillo Lentini upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany, to be celebrated at its Annual Visionary Gala, on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at the Franklin Plaza Ballroom in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 1908, the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany (NABA) has provided comprehensive services and programs to residents of the greater Capital Region who are blind or visually impaired; in 2014, they helped over 700 individuals of all ages across 14 counties adapt to vision loss, maximize remaining vision, achieve their goals, and expand their independence; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization also offered screenings to over 2,500 children between 18 months and five years of age for possible vision problems; and

WHEREAS, Mary Fiorillo Lentini is a longtime friend, volunteer and board member of the NABA; passionate about fashion and design, she began her career as a Sales Executive for My Michelle Dress Division; and

WHEREAS, After Mary Fiorillo Lentini moved to Albany, New York, she became an employee of Comfortex Window Fashions, a small window shade

manufacturing company in Cohoes, New York, she was hired for the position of Marketing Director to help launch a sub-division into the craft industry; as the company expanded, the idea for the Factory Outlet Store was born; and

WHEREAS, Today, Mary Fiorillo Lentini works part-time as a Design Consultant at the Comfortex Outlet Store, and is in the process of earning her real estate license; and

WHEREAS, For the past several years, Mary Fiorillo Lentini has graciously devoted her time and energies to helping the NABA fulfill its mission of providing critically needed support, guidance and assistance to the blind and visually impaired across the Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, After being inspired by a brave woman diagnosed with macular degeneration, Mary Fiorillo Lentini began serving as a member of NABA's Foundation Board; it was then she realized much can be achieved with knowledge, dedication, and a positive attitude; and

WHEREAS, Along with other participants, Mary Fiorillo Lentini was instrumental in establishing additional events such as Casino Night, in an effort to increase fundraising to benefit the Children's Youth Programs; currently, she holds the title of Secretary of the Board at NABA; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her work at NABA, this exceptional woman volunteers with several organizations, including the Saratoga Senior Center, the American Red Cross, Capital Repertory Theatre, and the Saratoga Senior Center; she also serves on the boards of both Liza's Legacy, and the Junior League of Albany; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her two children, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Volunteerism promotes family and community solidarity; most importantly, people who give of their time in civic and charitable endeavors inspire others to the call of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Mary Fiorillo Lentini has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mary Fiorillo Lentini upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mary Fiorillo Lentini.