

2015-J1414

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Jeffrey and Michael Buenau of Buenau's Opticians upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce

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, Jeffrey Buenau and Michael Buenau have given not only of their time and energies but also of their competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently have been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Jeffrey Buenau and Michael Buenau of Buenau's Opticians upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce to be celebrated at its 30th Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, April 17, 2015, at the Cyprus Shrine Center, Glenmont, New York; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1957, the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce works on a local and regional level to advance economic development and foster a positive business environment; it offers resources for residents, business, recreation and relocation in Bethlehem and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, Michael Buenau and his son, Jeffrey, are the co-owners of Buenau's Opticians, a family-owned business located in Delmar, New York, which has served its community for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1915, J. Peter Buenau opened Buenau's Opticians on Central Avenue, becoming one of Albany's first optometrists; he raised a family of five children, four of whom joined the thriving family business; and

WHEREAS, For over 80 years, Buenau's Opticians operated in Albany;

four decades ago, the family opened its second location in Delmar, which recently expanded in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Today, Michael, a third-generation optician, and Jeffrey, fourth generation, continue the 100-year-old family tradition of serving the vision needs of their community; they pride themselves on providing comprehensive family vision care as well as excellent, personalized customer service; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of their sterling commitment to excellence, Buenau's Opticians has been awarded METROLAND'S Optical Business of the Year more than 10 times; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey and Michael Buenau have been called upon to contribute their time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of themselves unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Buenau is an active Board member of the Bethlehem YMCA, and was awarded the "40 Under 40" in 2013 for his contributions to the excellence of advancement in ophthalmic dispensing; he is one of only four opticians under 40 years of age in New York State to be awarded this distinguished honor; and

WHEREAS, Michael Buenau is a past President of the New York State Society of Opticians and a longtime past Board member of the Northeast Association of the Blind; he has also received numerous awards in recognition of outstanding service in the field of ophthalmic dispensing; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Buenau family is active in numerous fundraising activities including the Elsmere School Playground project, and Aim High, a consumer directed service for persons with disabilities; they have also supported the Albany Autism Society and the Pride Center in Albany; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, Jeffrey and Michael Buenau have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals

for the benefit of others which Jeffrey and Michael Buenau have displayed throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Jeffrey and Michael Buenau of Buenau's Opticians upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jeffrey and Michael Buenau.