

2015-J1477

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Elizabeth Egbert posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Staten Island Museum on May 9, 2015

WHEREAS, From time to time, this Legislative Body takes note of certain individuals that it wishes to recognize for having given of their time and energies to serve the best interests of their communities and to publicly acknowledge their service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Elizabeth Egbert posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Staten Island Museum, at its Annual Spring Gala, on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at The Hilton's Above Ballroom, Staten Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born in West Virginia, Elizabeth Egbert was raised in both Long Island and Connecticut; in the 1960s, she established her art career in the SoHo neighborhood in New York City; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, Elizabeth Egbert received her bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts; three years later, she obtained her Master's degree in Sculpture from New York University, Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Egbert then went on to further her education by completing the Executive Level program of the Institute for Not-for-Profit Management at Columbia University's Business School, New York City; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Egbert always had an ardent passion for the arts; she was skilled in many facets of art, including sculpture, outdoor public art, printmaking and drawing; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman has exhibited her art collection at

many venues, including Socrates Sculpture Park, Lincoln Center Gallery, the American Craft Museum, the Newhouse Gallery at Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, the Sculpture Center, and the OIA, as well as SOHO20 Gallery; and

WHEREAS, Some of Elizabeth Egbert's well-known public works are Monkey Puzzle with The Philadelphia Art Alliance, Desert Pergola, Broadway Starship with Art in the Park; many other pieces are displayed at Collect Pond Park, as well as numerous gallery and sculpture commissions and exhibitions; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Egbert was a devoted Art Teacher at several universities, Hunter College, Manhattan, the College of the Arts, Philadelphia, the College of Mount St. Vincent, the Bronx and New York University, Manhattan; in addition, she taught Pre-Kindergarten art at the 92nd Y and was a Cofounder of the Visual Arts Program Third Street Music School Settlement, both in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Prior to heading the Staten Island Museum, Elizabeth Egbert held numerous leadership positions at several institutions, including Director/CEO of the Hudson Valley Children's Museum, Vice President for Administration for the Staten Island Botanical Garden, Assistant Director of the Staten Island Children's Museum, and Interim Director of the Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art at Snug Harbor, as well as Professor of Sculpture at the Philadelphia University of the Arts; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Elizabeth Egbert became the President/CEO of the Staten Island Museum; under her luminous leadership, the museum was transformed into one of New York City's most engaging cultural entities; the institution earned a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification, continuing the 138 year-old museum's commitment to the environment; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Egbert's proudest achievement was the restoration of the first of two triple landmark buildings at Snug Harbor, opening in 2015; the new museum building will feature exhibitions from the museum's

permanent collection and a venue for exhibitions in the disciplines of art, natural science and regional history; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Egbert was instrumental in organizing several key projects at the museum, such as the addition to the museum's permanent collection, re-housing the art collection, re-locating the history archives and library, creating a new collections management policy, and preserving significant art objects; and

WHEREAS, Active in her community, Elizabeth Egbert held the title of Chair/President of the Board of Directors at the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art; in addition, she served as a member of the Board of Directors for both the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, and the Mud Lane Society for the Renaissance of Stapleton; and

WHEREAS, Noted artist, sculptor, and community activist, Elizabeth Egbert of Staten Island, New York died on Saturday, August 30, 2014, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her loving husband of 37 years, composer Carl Michaelson, one son, Charles (Lauren), a daughter, Ingrid (Greg), and her three sisters, Louise, Diane, and Margaret, as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews, all of whom felt privileged to be a part of her extraordinary life and rejoiced in her many achievements; 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Elizabeth Egbert posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Staten Island Museum; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Elizabeth Egbert, and the Staten Island Museum.