

2015-J2032

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Matthew Kravatz upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Orange County Human Rights Commission on May 28, 2015

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Matthew Kravatz upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Orange County Human Rights Commission, to be celebrated at its 20th Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at The Fountains of Wallkill, Middletown, New York; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; he is being honored by the Orange County Human Rights Commission in recognition of his steadfast dedication to his community and his work to build better relationships among diverse people, encouraging them to participate in community life on an equal basis; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Providence College, Matthew Kravatz also earned a Master's degree in Literacy Education from the College of New Rochelle in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Kravatz is the Principal at North Main Street Elementary School in Monroe, New York, whose population is the largest in the

district who qualify for free and reduced lunch, in addition to a large percentage of Limited English Proficiency students; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Matthew Kravatz, North Main Street Elementary School has a profound sense of community, and embraces many of the challenges which come with poverty; the staff, under his guidance and leadership, has become a unified force intent on creating a united and welcoming place where both parents and children can be heard, helped and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Kravatz has been instrumental in the success of numerous programs which incorporate ESL instruction for parents and their children; parents are also welcome to use the school library after hours to access computers, books and magazines; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he began a community garden, grown and nurtured by the students, and whose produce is then shared with the local families to enjoy healthy and organic vegetables at the end of the harvest season; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Kravatz has truly instilled a sense of community within North Main Street Elementary School; students who once were on the fringes now participate fully, and parents who would never attend school functions because of the language barrier, now attend all the open houses, conferences, class parties, and all activities in between; and

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

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Matthew Kravatz 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 Matthew Kravatz upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Orange County Human Rights Commission on May 28, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Matthew Kravatz.