

## 2015-K575

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Joe Calato upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Niagara Falls Music & Arts Festival on June 20, 2015

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be underestimated; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those musical pioneers who have brought entertainment and cultural enrichment to the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Joe Calato upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Niagara Falls Music & Arts Festival in Niagara Falls, New York, on Saturday, June 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS, A native of Niagara Falls, New York, Joe Calato developed an interest in music and drumming at an early age; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Niagara Falls High School in 1939, Joe Calato attended the University of Buffalo and proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army; he attained the esteemed rank of Lieutenant, and served as a Navigator, flying missions over Germany with the Army Air Corps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Following the completion of his military service, Joe Calato married the former Katherine Laurri; he then started a kitchen cabinet company, making cabinets during the day, and playing the drums at night to support his growing family; and

WHEREAS, Joe Calato noticed while drumming that the tips of his drumsticks were wearing out very quickly; he decided to solve this prob-

lem and made it his mission to improve the quality of drumsticks; and  
WHEREAS, After much experimenting, he perfected the invention of a  
drumstick called the Regal Tip, which features a nylon tip which stayed  
on and did not shatter; this new type of drumstick also produced a  
unique sound pleasing to the ear; and

WHEREAS, Joe Calato's invention signaled a revolution in drumstick  
manufacturing and design, and the sound of his Regal Tip drumsticks  
helped define the musical styles of the day with its signature clarity  
on drumheads and ride cymbals; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer in his field, Joe Calato is further responsible for  
a variety of musical innovations including Thai Sticks, Conga Stick,  
Danny Reyes Multi-Percussion Stick, and most recently the E-Tip drumst-  
ick; and

WHEREAS, Joe Calato set new standards for quality and musical sound  
with his line of Regal Tip brushes which continues today to be the best-  
selling brushes in the world; and

WHEREAS, To date, Joe Calato's company is still owned and operated by  
the Calato family; its commitment to producing quality products for  
drummers and percussionists continues as the next generation begins to  
assume responsibility for the day-to-day operations; and

WHEREAS, For more than 50 years, Joe Calato's company has employed  
hundreds of people in the Niagara Falls area, becoming a vital part of  
the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Tourists and drummers from around the world continue to visit  
the manufacturing facility on Hyde Park Boulevard in Niagara Falls, New  
York, to witness the production of their favorite sticks and brushes;  
and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when musical  
innovators 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 Joe Calato upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Niagara Falls Music & Arts Festival; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joe Calato.