

## 2015-J2303

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Paul Sorvino upon the occasion of his designation as the 2015 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who foster ethnic pride and strive to preserve their cultural heritage, thereby enhancing the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of community throughout this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Paul Sorvino upon the occasion of his designation as the 2015 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators to be celebrated on June 8, 2015, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, A native of Brooklyn, New York, Paul Sorvino is an accomplished actor, director, author, screenwriter, operatic tenor, sculptor, pianist, passionate cook, and proud Italian-American whose noble family's coat of arms dates back to the 12th Century; and

WHEREAS, Paul Sorvino began his entertainment career as a 16-year-old singer at a Catskills resort, and, by the age of 25, he was acting and singing on Broadway in the 1964 musical "Bajour"; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished actor with roles in more than 170 films to his credit, Paul Sorvino is best known for his portrayal of tough guys such as Paul Cicero in Martin Scorsese's 1990 film "Goodfellas," and as Henry Kissinger in Oliver Stone's 1995 film "Nixon"; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he has starred in a variety of television shows, and is best remembered as Phil Cerreta on "Law and Order" and Al Miller on the sitcom "Still Standing"; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable entertainer is also a professional bronze sculptor, pianist and businessman as well as an accomplished operatic tenor; at the age of 40, he made his operatic debut in "Die Fledermaus" selling out six performances at the Seattle Opera, and in 2006 sang the lead in "The Most Happy Fella" at The New York City Opera at Lincoln Center which sold out 15 performances; and

WHEREAS, Paul Sorvino has also directed productions both on and off-Broadway, and was the artistic director of The American Stage Company, which he founded on the campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University; and

WHEREAS, A bestselling author, Paul Sorvino based his book, HOW TO BECOME A FORMER ASTHMATIC, on his early life as a sufferer of severe asthma attacks; during this time, he created and mastered breathing techniques which helped control the attacks and founded the Sorvino Asthma Foundation to educate the public about asthma; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Paul Sorvino has been twice honored by the Pope for his work with asthmatics, as well by the American Medical Association; he is also a Knight of the Great Cross and a Knight of the Italian Republic; and

WHEREAS, Paul Sorvino has truly distinguished himself through his wonderful career and service to others, and, consequently, the Italian-American community and all of New York State has profited greatly from his talent and dedication; 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 commend Paul Sorvino upon the occasion of his designation as the 2015

Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Paul Sorvino.