

## 2015-J3029

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Frank Skala upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

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 Frank Skala upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Frank Skala was born on July 14th, 1937, to Julia (Sefranka) Skala and Franz Skala; a lifelong resident of Queens, he lived for more than seven decades in the home his parents purchased in 1940 on 219th Street in Bayside; and

WHEREAS, Upon his graduation from PS 41, Bayside High School, Frank Skala attended Queens College as both an undergraduate and graduate student where he received his degrees in History and Education; and

WHEREAS, Frank Skala spent his illustrious 33 year career as a junior high school American History and Geography Teacher at JHS 218, Campbell

Junior High School in Flushing and later IS 25, Adrien Block Junior High School, before retiring in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Frank Skala taught thousands of students, conducted dozens of field trips to United States landmarks, coached the track team, and served as a union delegate and chapter leader; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his professional career, Frank Skala's avocation has been as a community activist; he has been a tireless and lifetime advocate for preserving and improving the quality of life for residents of Bayside; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, Frank Skala founded the East Bayside Homeowners Association Inc. to protect the residential nature of the neighborhood; he also launched the New Bayside High Alumni Association in 1991, raising money and awarding scholarships for academically deserving students; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he attended meetings of Queens Community Board No. 11 for three decades, before he was appointed as a member in 2003, where he served for twelve years, stepping down in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Active within his community, Frank Skala has served as a licensed lay reader in his boyhood church, All Saints Episcopal Church, for the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Frank Skala has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his two loving children, Bonnie and Edward, and his two beautiful grandchildren, Brayden and Alexa, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Frank Skala devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now,

therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Frank Skala upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Frank Skala.