

## 2015-J3377

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lou Santoni upon the occasion of his retirement after 41 years of distinguished service to the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens who demonstrate great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and 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 honor Lou Santoni upon the occasion of his retirement after 41 years of distinguished service to the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce; he will officially retire in April of 2016; and

WHEREAS, A life-long resident of the Southern Tier, Lou Santoni joined the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce in 1974 as an on-the-job training counselor; in the mid-1980s, he became Vice-President of Economic Development after the chamber merged its Industrial Development Department with the Convention and Visitors Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Lou Santoni has contributed greatly to community life and the local economy; he oversaw the opening of the Gateway Information Center on Interstate 81 in 1995, and served as the chamber's Senior Vice President and Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Gateway during the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, this esteemed civic leader was named permanent President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce after serving three times in an interim executive role; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure, President and CEO Lou Santoni expertly fulfilled the various wide-ranging responsibilities of his office while directing the 800 members and 20 employees of various cham-

ber divisions including the Gateway Information Center, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Greater Binghamton Education and Outreach Program; and

WHEREAS, Lou Santoni 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 a past President and past Treasurer of the New York State Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus and a former President of the Central New York Tourism Region; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Lou Santoni has served on the board for the Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena, and the Children's Home; currently, he serves as a member of the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Lou Santoni was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems, earning him the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in this Nation, and in the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those civic-minded community members who dedicate their lives and careers to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when civic leaders of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lou Santoni upon the occasion of his retirement after 41 years of distinguished service to the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, and to wish him the best in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lou Santoni.