

2015-J3585

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Robert L. Poczik upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achiever of the Year Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on February 25, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Robert L. Poczik upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achiever of the Year Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its 44th Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at Samuel's Grande Manor, Williamsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Robert L. Poczik, affectionately known as Bob, graduated from Clarence Central High School, attended the State University of New York at Binghamton, and then spent a year and a half in India on a Fulbright Fellowship during which time he taught English at an Indian university, did a research project on Mahatma Gandhi, and did volunteer work with Tibetan refugees; and

WHEREAS, After earning his Master's degree in Education from Syracuse University, Robert L. Poczik returned to Asia on a Ford Foundation Fellowship, this time on assignment to the Ministry of Education in Sri Lanka; he again did volunteer work with Tibetan refugees in India, and created an English-Tibetan Children's Dictionary; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the dictionary, which has been reprinted 11 times and has never been out of print since it was first published 40 years ago, has helped several generations of young Tibetans to learn

English; as part of this work, Robert L. Poczik also had several private audiences with the Dalai Lama; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return to the United States, Robert L. Poczik began his illustrious 26-year career with the New York State Education Department in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Robert L. Poczik served as the lead state administrator of programs for refugees and immigrants, adult literacy, job training, and career and technical education; he also worked an additional 10 years for a research and evaluation firm in Manhattan, with a primary focus on the improvement of child welfare programs, including foster care; and

WHEREAS, With an unwavering dedication to his community, Robert L. Poczik has given much of his time and energies to help those individuals and families on the margins of the economy learn the skills needed to become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after his retirement, Robert L. Poczik and his wife Ellen moved back to Clarence where they reside in Ellen's childhood home; and

WHEREAS, A valued and esteemed member of his community, Robert L. Poczik has been active in the Clarence Senior Center and sits on its Board of Directors; an avid reader, he has been a long-standing member of the Clarence Book Review Club, and serves as its Vice President; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he is a member of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, where he serves both as a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister, and is the Chairman of its Parish Council; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Robert L. Poczik has

stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Robert L. Poczik has displayed

throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Robert L. Poczik upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achiever of the Year Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on February 25, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert L. Poczik.