

## 2015-J3833

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Luke J. Nasta 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 Luke J. Nasta 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, Luke J. Nasta is an Executive Director and Educator, with extensive experience in the non-profit substance abuse rehabilitation arena; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated leader and a true man of distinction, Luke J. Nasta has contributed distinguished services to humanity and touched the lives of many, sharing his personal and professional gifts within the New York City region; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Staten Island, New York, Luke J. Nasta endured a turbulent adolescence; a school dropout at 15, he thereafter

became addicted to heroin and his continued downward plunge was punctuated by repeated arrests, short periods of incarceration, and several sentences to probation; and

WHEREAS, The turning point came in 1973 when Luke J. Nasta entered Exodus House, a drug treatment facility in Harlem; he remained there for the next two and a half years in a therapeutically intensive campaign to win his personal war against drug usage; this experience would later serve as the foundation for his professional convictions and achievements; and

WHEREAS, Since 1976, Luke J. Nasta has been Executive Director of Camelot Counseling Centers, the largest drug treatment program on Staten Island, where he oversees a multi-million dollar budget, as well as 80 full and part time workers; this year in February marks his 40th Anniversary at Camelot Counseling; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Luke J. Nasta, Camelot Counseling Centers provides residential and outpatient services to those affected by addictive disease, as well as other counseling programs in the boroughs of Staten Island, Queens, and the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Luke J. Nasta created and established two Staten Island residential chemical dependency treatment programs for young male adults, and founded and developed multi-site prevention and intervention borough-wide projects; and

WHEREAS, Luke J. Nasta strives to effect change in law, social policy, and regulations relative to addictive disease, health services, insurance, family, juvenile, and criminal law matters; and

WHEREAS, After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Community and Human Services at Empire State College in 1987, Luke J. Nasta received a

Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Metropolitan College; and

WHEREAS, Luke J. Nasta has served as the Public Policy Officer for the Coalition for Community Services since 1990; he also joined the Tackling

Youth Substance Abuse committee in 2013, where he serves as Vice Chairman; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Luke J. Nasta received the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Commissioners Award, and the Community Services Award; he is also a former member of the New York State Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse and Alcoholism, as well as the New York City Bureau of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Commissioners Advisory Group; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, the former Mary Rose McBrien, his three sons, Luke Jr., Cole and Sean, and a daughter, Madeline, as well as four grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Luke J. Nasta, 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 Luke J. Nasta 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 Luke J. Nasta.