

## 2015-J3896

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Honorable John S. Balzano upon the occasion of his retirement after 16 years of distinguished service as Utica City Court Judge

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed individuals whose lives have been committed to the pursuit of excellence and who bring great pride to the citizens of our great State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Honorable John S. Balzano upon the occasion of his retirement after 16 years of distinguished service as Utica City Court Judge; and

WHEREAS, At the New York State mandatory age of 70, Justice John S. Balzano, will officially retire on December 31, 2015, after 16 years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Justice John S. Balzano earned his bachelor's degree from Utica College of Syracuse University in 1967; he then obtained his Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School in 1971; and

WHEREAS, One year later, Justice John S. Balzano was admitted to the New York State Bar; he then practiced general law in the private sector from 1972-1998; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, Justice John S. Balzano was elected to the esteemed position of Utica City Court Judge, and subsequently, was re-elected for an additional term in 2008; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his role of Utica City Court Judge, John S. Balzano is a full-time sitting Oneida County Court Judge, a supervising Judge for City Courts in the Fifth Judicial District and presides over all felony DWI cases in Oneida County; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Justice John S. Balzano was also

responsible for hearing cases for the local Drug Treatment Court; in this capacity, he was known as part Judge, guidance counselor, and the leader of a support group, dispensing justice with an emphasis on rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, After almost two decades of dedicated service to the City of Utica, Justice John S. Balzano leaves his position with mixed feelings, however, he looks forward to spending more time with his beloved grandchildren and the rest of his family; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Justice John S. Balzano over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and commend The Honorable John S. Balzano upon the occasion of his retirement, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable John S. Balzano.