

## 2015-J4127

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Eric J. Ierardi upon the occasion of his retirement after 43 years of dedicated service as an educator

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Eric J. Ierardi upon the occasion of his retirement after 43 years of dedicated service as an educator; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at a Luau on Friday, June 24, 2016, at Rex Manor Hall in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, A native of Brooklyn, New York, and the son of immigrant parents, Eric J. Ierardi earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint Francis College in 1973; he began his career in academia teaching fifth and seventh grade students at Saint Bartholomew School in Elmhurst, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Eric J. Ierardi became the Assistant to Borough President Howard Golden, as Educational Assistant and Liaison to the Roman Catholic Church; in addition, he served as a District Representative for Congressman Stephan Solarz in 1982; and

WHEREAS, After receiving a Master of Science degree in Administration and Supervision in 1987, Eric J. Ierardi moved to Mississippi, where he became Principal of Saint Francis Xavier School; years later, he

returned to Brooklyn and served as Principal at two additional Catholic schools; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Eric J. Ierardi started with the New York City Department of Education; presently, he is an Assistant Principal at I.S. 228 David A. Boody School for Magnet Studies, in Brooklyn, where he is beloved by both students and staff; and

WHEREAS, A leader in his profession, Eric J. Ierardi is also a passionate historian, who has written many books, including BROOKLYN IN THE 1920'S and GRAVESEND: THE HOME OF CONEY ISLAND, both publications heralding the incredible mosaic and rich heritage that resides within the streets of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Eric J. Ierardi is the President and Founder of The Gravesend Historical Society and is responsible for having several historic homes and sites in Gravesend declared landmarks of New York City, including the Gravesend Cemetery, the Coney Island Parachute, and the Cyclone Roller Coaster Ride; and

WHEREAS, As an Honorary Mayor of Gravesham, England, Eric J. Ierardi was presented with a Mayoral Medal for diplomatic service in uniting Gravesend, Brooklyn, with Gravesend, England; and

WHEREAS, Eric J. Ierardi was knighted by His Royal Highness Prince Victor Emmanuel IV of Savoy as "Commendatore", in the Order of Merit of Savoy; he was also knighted by the Prince to the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Eric J. Ierardi was appointed by Prince Victor Emmanuel IV as the United States delegate of both the Gruppo Savoia and the Royal Honor Guards (Guardia D'Onore) to the Italian Royal family at the royal tombs at the Pantheon in Rome, Italy; and

WHEREAS, Educators such as Eric J. Ierardi provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, Eric J. Ierardi has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of I.S. 228 David A. Boody School, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Eric J. Ierardi has earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools, and to commend the efforts of those individuals who seek to bring recognition to historical places within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Eric J. Ierardi upon the occasion of his retirement after 43 years of dedicated service as an educator; for his significant contributions to education in New York State; and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Eric J. Ierardi.