

2015-J4404

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Wesley Laraway upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce

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 Wesley Laraway upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its Annual Business Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 1, 2016, at Cavern's Palace, Howe Caves, New York; and

WHEREAS, Wesley Laraway has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Well known throughout Schoharie County, Wesley Laraway is the director and founder of New York Wildlife Rescue Center and Northeast Llama Rescue and Barnyard Sanctuary, one of the largest privately run not-for-profit organizations in the Northeast; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Wes Laraway has rescued countless domestic, exotic and wild animals each year from across the country; sick, injured and orphaned animals are nursed back to health, domestic animals are rehabilitated and adopted out to carefully screened families, and exotic animals are relocated to various zoos; and

WHEREAS, Raised in Middleburgh, New York, Wesley Laraway grew up working for his family business, Laraway's Oil Company; he is a proud Troop 2 Eagle Scout, and was chosen as the Elks' Schoharie County Teenager of the Year in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Wesley Laraway is a teacher at Middleburgh Central School and is a licensed New York State Wildlife Rehabilitator; he does more than 50 appearances annually to promote wildlife conservation and preservation for our future generations; and

WHEREAS, Renowned nationwide for his animal rescue efforts, Wesley Laraway coordinated volunteers from around the United States to remove more than 600 llamas from the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary; this was the largest animal rescue in the United States since Hurricane Katrina, and involved more than 2,000 neglected and starving animals of various species; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his steadfast and unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation, Wesley Laraway has been instrumental in positively influencing local youth, changing their lives for the better; with no paid staff, his rescue facility is run with the help of volunteers, many of whom are his past and present high school students, as well as students from the Wildlife Society at Cobleskill College; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he works closely with the community service program, giving people a place where they can fulfill their court-mandated hours while making a difference in the lives of the animals; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Darcy, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Wesley Laraway has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of

this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Wesley Laraway upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Wesley Laraway.