

2015-J4510

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Thomas Casatelli upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Victor V. Allegretti Memorial Man of the Year Award by the American Legion Kings County Youth Recreational Facilities, Inc. on April 10, 2016

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Casatelli has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Thomas Casatelli upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Victor V. Allegretti Memorial Man of the Year Award by American Legion Kings County Youth Recreational Facilities, Inc. to be celebrated at its 22nd Annual Baseball Fundraiser on Sunday, April 10, 2016, at Gargiulo's Restaurant, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Kings County Youth Recreational Facilities, Inc. provides and maintains baseball fields for use by neighborhood youth organizations and schools in Brooklyn, New York, allowing thousands of children to play baseball in a clean and safe environment at no cost to them or their families; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Casatelli is the oldest of five brothers born to Timmy and Sandra Casatelli in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn in 1970; after moving to Bay Ridge in 1982, Tom played baseball and soccer at St. Patrick's Boys High School; as an adult, he became a respected coach to many neighborhood kids in those same leagues he once played in as a child; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from St. Peter's Boys High School, Thomas

Casatelli attended Brooklyn College for a few semesters; he then went on to join the United States Marine Corps where he proudly served as a Corporal in a combat unit during Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning stateside, Thomas Casatelli earned his Associate's degree from Kingsborough Community College before joining the ranks of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY); and

WHEREAS, As a member of Engine Company 226, Thomas Casatelli was the recipient of several medals for his rescue of an elderly man from a collapsed building on State Street in Downtown Brooklyn in 2000; and

WHEREAS, As a firefighter, Thomas Casatelli enjoyed playing on the FDNY soccer team and competed in over 50 triathlons; after sustaining injuries on 9/11, he retired from the department in 2014; and

WHEREAS, After his retirement from the fire service, Thomas Casatelli realized his lifelong dream of owning his own restaurant and opened his first eatery on Third Avenue in Bay Ridge in 2004; today, he owns and operates four restaurants with his family: The Kettle Black and the Lock Yard in Bay Ridge, Ho'Brah Tacos in Brooklyn, and Ho'Brah in Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, A hospitality veteran of over 25 years, Thomas Casatelli was the recipient of the 2006 Brooklyn and Queens' Restaurant Owner of the Year Award in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Casatelli 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, A faithful member of St. Patrick Church, Thomas Casatelli leads the Annual St. Pat's Taste of the Ridge culinary showcase and has organized several music events benefitting the New York City Firefight-

er's Burn Center at Cornell Medical Center and the Hurricane Sandy relief effort; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Thomas Casatelli has stood constant

in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Jennifer, and his two children, Abigail and Tristan, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Thomas Casatelli has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Thomas Casatelli upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Victor V. Allegretti Memorial Man of the Year Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Thomas Casatelli.