

2015-J4604

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Barry and Rita Rothfeld upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award by Family Services on April 21, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Barry and Rita Rothfeld upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award by Family Services, to be celebrated at its Family of the Year Awards Event on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at The Grandview, Poughkeepsie, New York; and

WHEREAS, Barry Rothfeld, chair of the board of the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, retired in June of 2015, after 11 years as president and publisher of the POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL and 42 years with the Gannett Co., Inc.; and

WHEREAS, At the helm of the Poughkeepsie Journal Media Group during its time of greatest change, Barry Rothfeld was instrumental in its transformation from a print-centric operation to one that embraced digital media; and

WHEREAS, In other roles with the Gannett Co., Inc., Barry Rothfeld previously served as publisher of THE ITHACA JOURNAL, editor of the PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN in Binghamton, and executive editor of the POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he spent 17 years in various reporting and editing roles at Gannett Westchester Rockland Newspapers, now the JOURNAL

NEWS, where he started as a reporter and rose to the rank of senior managing editor; and

WHEREAS, Active within the community, Barry Rothfeld serves as second vice chair of the Vassar Brothers Medical Center, vice chair of the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation and is a board advisor to Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he previously completed six-year runs on the boards of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Dutchess County Economic Development Corp., and the Bardavon 1869 Opera House where he currently serves on its Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Professionally, Barry Rothfeld is past chair of the New York Newspaper Publishers Association board of directors and now serves on the organization's Foundation; he holds a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and he recently completed two terms on the school's alumni board; and

WHEREAS, Barry Rothfeld has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades some of which include the John Peter Zenger Award in recognition of his exemplary service to newspapers and freedom of the press, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award from the St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church; he was also honored as Gannett's Publisher of the Year in 2009, and is a three-time President's Ring winner for his work; and

WHEREAS, Rita Rothfeld retired in June of 2015 after a nearly 30-year career in elementary and reading education; most recently, she spent the last 11 years as a reading specialist at Sheafe Road Elementary School in the Wappinger School District working with its most high needs students; and

WHEREAS, Prior to her serving in this capacity, Rita Rothfeld taught fourth-grade elementary in the Binghamton City School District; she has also taught remedial reading and math in the Millbrook Central School District, and previously worked in the Yorktown Central School District

and in the New York City Schools; and

WHEREAS, Rita Rothfeld has been involved in numerous professional organizations, including the International Reading Association, the Mid-Hudson Reading Council, and American Association of University Women; she is also active in the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation, where she co-chairs its successful Spring Brunch; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed woman holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from Queens College, and has continued to pursue her post-education throughout her illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, With them throughout have been their two children, Jason and Shari, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of their lives and rejoice in their achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Barry and Rita Rothfeld have displayed throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Barry and Rita Rothfeld upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award by Family Services on April 21, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Barry and Rita Rothfeld.