

2015-J4884

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ronald Canestrari upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Third Age Achievement Award in Government by Senior Services of Albany

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 Ronald Canestrari upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Third Age Achievement Award in Government by Senior Services of Albany, to be celebrated at its 20th Annual Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 6, 2016, at Wolferts Roost Country Club, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Senior Services of Albany was founded in 1952, to serve the needs of the elderly and their caregivers in the greater Albany area; since its inception, the agency has focused its mission on enhancing quality of life and fostering independence for seniors in the Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, The Third Age Achievement Awards are designed to pay tribute to members of the Capital Region who have made significant contributions to our communities in their "third age"; the award seeks to dispel the myth that getting older always means slowing down and highlights the activities, achievements and creativity of individuals over the age of 60; and

WHEREAS, The 60-plus stage of life can be a time full of opportunities

to enrich our communities, pursue dreams, and provide leadership; the Third Age Achievement Awards honor individuals who have excelled in all of these endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Canestrari grew up in Cohoes, New York, where he attended the Cohoes Public School system for many years before graduating from Christian Brothers Academy; and

WHEREAS, Upon earning his degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1968, Ronald Canestrari worked as an attorney for the Federal Government in Washington, DC and practiced law with a firm in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Ronald Canestrari began his illustrious political career by running and being elected for Mayor of Cohoes; he served as Mayor for 13 years, while also serving as President of the New York State Conference for Mayors; and

WHEREAS, Elected to the New York State Assembly in 1988, Ronald Canestrari represented parts of Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties; during his time as an Assembly member, he also served as Chairman of the Assembly's Higher Education Committee and was a driving force behind the Capital matching program which provides essential funding to New York's independent colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he chaired the Assembly Working Group on television coverage, where he led the effort to make Assembly session footage available throughout the state on cable television and the internet; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Ronald Canestrari was named Majority Leader of the New York State Assembly where he was responsible for the day-to-day management of the legislative session on the floor of the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Canestrari retired from public office in 2012, and currently serves on the board of the Watervliet Arsenal Partnership Board, which serves as a vehicle to bring private sector jobs to the area; furthermore, he remains active in the greater Cohoes community,

supporting Unity House, the Troy Music Hall and Holy Trinity Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Ronald Canestrari 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 Ronald Canestrari upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Third Age Achievement Award in Government by Senior Services of Albany; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ronald Canestrari.