

2015-J5171

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen upon the occasion of celebrating his 13th Anniversary of service to the Shelter Rock Jewish Center on May 26, 2016

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen upon the occasion of celebrating his 13th Anniversary of service to the Shelter Rock Jewish Center, to be feted at its Annual Gold Plate Dinner on Thursday, May 26, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in New York City, Martin Samuel Cohen earned his bachelor's degree summa cum laude from the City University of New York; in 1978, he was ordained as rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS); and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen furthered his education by obtaining his Ph.D. in the History of Ancient Judaism from JTS; he also successfully completed post-doctoral fellowships at the Hebrew University in 1983, and later at Harvard University in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Eager to share his extensive knowledge, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen lectured on the history of religion at Hunter College of the City University of New York, and taught Bible and Talmud classes at both the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York and at the Institute for Jewish Studies attached to the University of Heidelberg in Germany;

and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen left Europe for Canada, where he accepted the pulpit of the Beth Tikvah Congregation in Richmond, British Columbia; after 13 years of service, he left Canada to assume the pulpit of Congregation Eilat in Mission Viejo, California;

and

WHEREAS, Three years later, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen accepted the position of rabbi at the Shelter Rock Jewish Center in Roslyn, New York, where he has now served for over a decade; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work as teacher and rabbi, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen is a prolific author; through the years, he has published two scientific studies in the history of pre-kabbalistic Jewish mysticism, four novels and four books of essays, including the Hebrew-language "Sefer Ha`ikarim Livnei Zemanenu," as well as his own 2004 edition of the Book of Psalms, called OUR HAVEN AND OUR STRENGTH: THE BOOK OF PSALMS IN NEW TRANSLATION; and

WHEREAS, More recently, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen has published a two-volume prayer book entitled SIDDUR TZUR YISRAEL, ZOT NECHEMATI FOR THE HOUSE OF MOURNING, a children's book called RIDING THE RIVER OF PEACE, and THE BOY ON THE DOOR ON THE OX, an exploration of the relationship between Torah study and service in the congregational rabbinate; and

WHEREAS, From 1997-2000, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen held the title of Chairman of the Publications Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, and since 2003, he has chaired the Editorial Board of the quarterly journal, CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen served as Senior Editor of the 2012 landmark volume defining Conservative Jewish life,

THE OBSERVANT LIFE: THE WISDOM OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM FOR CONTEMPORARY JEWS, and has worked on his own Torah translation and commentary; and

WHEREAS, When he is not serving his congregation or writing, Rabbi

Martin Samuel Cohen enjoys playing the piano and spending time with his beloved dogs; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, and his two sons and daughter, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen upon the occasion of celebrating his 13th Anniversary of service to the Shelter Rock Jewish Center, noting his unrelenting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen.