

## 2015-J5403

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Lee Mazzilli upon the occasion of his designation as the 2016 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who foster ethnic pride and strive to preserve their cultural heritage, thereby enhancing the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of community throughout this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Lee Mazzilli upon the occasion of his designation as the 2016 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators to be celebrated on Monday, June 6, 2016, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, A native of Brooklyn, New York, Lee Mazzilli is a 2015 New York State Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, and proud Italian-American who was the youngest child of June and Libero Mazzilli, the son of immigrants from Bari, Italy; and

WHEREAS, A natural, lifelong athlete, Lee Mazzilli was a championship speed skater during his high school years, and when it came time to choose between skating and baseball, he chose baseball; he was naturally ambidextrous, and made a name for himself being able to swing the bat from both sides of the plate at an early age; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation from Lincoln High School in 1973, Lee Mazzilli was a first round draft pick for the New York Mets; after a successful minor league career in the California League, he embarked on a 14-year Major League career, spending 10 of those years with his hometown New York Mets; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Lee Mazzilli led the New York Mets with 181 hits and 79 runs batted in, and was named to the 1979 National League All Star Team; he was also a crucial part of the New York Mets 1986 Championship team, batting .400 during the World Series; and

WHEREAS, In total, Lee Mazzilli collected over 1,000 hits and belted 93 career home runs during his time with the New York Mets, Pittsburgh Pirates, New York Yankees, Texas Rangers, and Toronto Blue Jays; and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement as a professional baseball player, Lee Mazzilli served as the first base coach for the New York Yankees from 2000 to 2003, earning a World Series Championship with the team in 2000; he also managed the Baltimore Orioles from 2004 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Lee Mazzilli married Danielle Folquet at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City; with him throughout have been his wife and their three children, Lacey, Jenna, and Lee Jr. (known as L.J.), all of whom feel privileged to be part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Lee Mazzilli has truly distinguished himself through his wonderful career and service to others, and, consequently, the Italian-American community and all of New York State have profited greatly from his talent and dedication; 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 commend Lee Mazzilli upon the occasion of his designation as the 2016 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lee Mazzilli.