

## 2015-J5685

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Thomas Catena upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Teresian Faith, Hope and Courage Award by the Teresian House Foundation on July 28, 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 and organizations which distinguish themselves through their unremitting commitment and service to humanity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Thomas Catena upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Teresian Faith, Hope and Courage Award by the Teresian House Foundation, to be celebrated at its Annual Gala on Thursday, July 28, 2016, at the Saratoga National Golf Club, Saratoga Springs, New York; and

WHEREAS, Teresian House is a 300 bed, non-profit home for the elderly in the Capital District, sponsored by the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese and served by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award is bestowed upon an individual who has made a positive impact on others and has overcome extreme adversity in their life; Dr. Thomas Catena, a Catholic Missionary from Amsterdam, New York, is being recognized for his tireless works of mercy, risk and sacrifice to care for those people who are so desperately in need; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Catena played football and earned his bachelor's degree at Brown University; he furthered his education by obtaining his medical degree from Duke University; and

WHEREAS, Prior to moving to Sudan, Dr. Thomas Catena held the position

of a Military Doctor and assisted the people of Kenya, including the slums of Nairobi; and

WHEREAS, Since 2008, Dr. Thomas Catena has served as the only Doctor at the 435-bed Mother of Mercy Hospital located in the Nuba Mountains in the far south of Sudan, which has a population of over 750,000 people, encompassing an area roughly the size of Austria; and

WHEREAS, Patients with various ailments such as fractures, diarrhea, thyroid disease and cancer, and an increasing number of victims of bombing attacks and malnourishment spurred on by the war, may travel for a week to see Dr. Thomas Catena at Mother of Mercy Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Limited by his surroundings and working in a hostile environment, Dr. Thomas Catena may take care of 300-350 in-patients daily, sometimes using decades-old treatments; this remarkable man earns \$350 a month while being on call 24/7; and

WHEREAS, Each day, Dr. Thomas Catena, his staff and patients face possible danger; in May of 2014, the hospital was subject to bombings, and consequently, a number of foxholes have been built to harbor patients and staff during future attacks; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by his Catholic faith and St. Francis of Assisi, Dr. Thomas Catena is a true humanitarian, risking his life every day to serve the people of Sudan; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Thomas Catena upon the occasion of his designation as recipi-

ent of the Teresian Faith, Hope and Courage Award by the Teresian House Foundation on July 28, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Dr. Thomas Catena.