

2015-J5992

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Janette Clark upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation on June 17, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the efforts of individuals who distinguish themselves in service to the cause of working men and women in the State of New York; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Janette Clark upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation at its 10th Annual Labor Heroes Celebration to be held on Friday, June 17, 2016, at Dutchess Manor in Beacon, New York; and

WHEREAS, Janette Clark, Social Work Medicaid Caseworker, New York State Office for People with Development Disabilities (OPWDD), Taconic DDSO, is the recipient of the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation's 2016 Norma Rae Award; and

WHEREAS, Born in Virginia, Janette Clark moved to Europe as a toddler and spent time in both Switzerland and England, before her family moved to Chile, South America, where her mother's influence and the country's instability helped shape her views on social justice, human rights and democracy; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1982, after attending Western Connecticut State University, Janette Clark began her career as a Social Work Medicaid Caseworker; she continues to find both professional and personal satisfaction in assisting those with disabilities live richer lives, and has been a consummate advocate for a very vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Janette Clark was encouraged by her professional colleagues to become a Public Employee Federation (PEF) Steward; and

WHEREAS, During the same year, Janette Clark was elected to PEF's statewide Executive Board representing both Taconic and Hudson Valley DDSO/RO covering nine counties as well as being appointed a Vice President Delegate to the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation (HVALF); in 2007, she was elected as a HVALF Executive Board Officer, and a Leader of Taconic's PEF Division 248 where she currently serves as its President; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Janette Clark serves on many Taconic, statewide OPWDD, and PEF committees such as Labor/Management, Health & Safety, Work Place Violence, Political Action and Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Known as a passionate advocate for the PEF members she represents and an ardent protector of their employment, Janette Clark is also known to be solution driven and a consensus builder; and

WHEREAS, Active in her community, in 1989, Janette Clark co-founded HANDS (Hope After Neonatal Death through Sharing), a support group at Vassar Brothers Hospital to assist families who have lost children, and in 1991, she co-founded COMMAND (Crawford and Montgomery Mobilized Against New Dumps), a 1000+ member bi-partisan grass roots organization which stopped Orange County's selection process for a new landfill site; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 1996, Janette Clark established PEN (Parent Educational Network), a PTA for students with disabilities in the Pine Bush CSD where she provides CSE support and advocacy for families pro bono across the Hudson Valley; she has also been a member/officer of multiple building PTA's, and in 2001, she helped establish the Pine Bush Volleyball Club and was the co-Director until 2006; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Mark, and their three children, Kourtney, Kariann and Kristen, who feel privileged to be part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Janette Clark upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation on June 17, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Janette Clark.