

2015-J6232

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rabbi Garry Loeb upon the occasion of his retirement after 31 years of distinguished service as Teacher and Spiritual Leader of Monroe Temple Beth-El on June 30, 2016

WHEREAS, It is with great admiration and deepest respect that this Legislative Body is moved to pay tribute to an eminent gentleman of indomitable spirit and dedication, whose purposeful life and accomplishments will forever stand as an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rabbi Garry Loeb upon the occasion of his retirement after 31 years of distinguished service as Teacher and Spiritual Leader of Monroe Temple Beth-El; he will officially retire on Thursday, June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, As leader of Monroe Temple Beth-El, Rabbi Garry Loeb brought 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, Since 1985, Rabbi Garry Loeb has served as the Rabbi of Monroe Temple Beth-El in Monroe, New York; he is the longest serving Rabbi in the 72-year history of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, A native of Toronto, Canada, Garry Loeb became an ordained Rabbi in 1981 at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Garry Loeb and his wife came to Monroe Temple Beth-El in the summer of 1985, and for 15 years, he served as both the Rabbi and Cantor; in this capacity, he encouraged the congregation to participate in all services, including Tot Shabbat and Young People's Congregation; and

WHEREAS, During his faithful leadership at Monroe Temple Beth-El,

Rabbi Garry Loeb concentrated on imparting the Jewish heritage to the members of the congregation and guiding them in the conduct of worship services and life cycle events; and

WHEREAS, As the primary teaching resource, Rabbi Garry Loeb was always available to every congregant, providing counseling and guidance on religious matters and other issues; and

WHEREAS, A progressive spiritual leader, Rabbi Garry Loeb, affectionately known as Rabbi Raffi, will always be admired and remembered for playing music on his trusty Martin guitar and leading highly intellectual education and Torah study sessions; and

WHEREAS, An adventurous man committed to serenity and heritage, Rabbi Garry Loeb often organized weekly nature hikes and congregational trips to Israel; and

WHEREAS, As Reform Judaism changed and grew, Rabbi Garry Loeb kept the congregation at the forefront of the Reform movement's re-embrace of tradition for over three decades; this wise man encouraged his members to develop a thoughtful balance between Reform philosophy and traditional custom and ritual; and

WHEREAS, Realizing the importance of his staff, Rabbi Garry Loeb worked closely with Cantor Goldmann, Temple leadership and committees, Auxiliary groups, the office team, Torah School principal, and the Mentsch Makers pre-school; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unremitting commitment to his synagogue, Rabbi Garry Loeb was honored by the congregation with a gala weekend celebration in recognition of his Chai Anniversary in 2003; seven years later, he was once again feted with another gala weekend celebrating his 25th or Silver Anniversary with his Temple; and

WHEREAS, Well-liked and respected by many within the Jewish community, Rabbi Garry Loeb was elected President of the Regional Rabbinic Association and to a seat on the Board of Trustees of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; and

WHEREAS, After his much deserved retirement, Rabbi Garry Loeb plans on visiting family in Toronto, before touring the American West in a Recreational Vehicle; he also plans on continuing to serve Monroe Temple Beth-El as Rabbi Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Sorel Goldberg Loeb, and his son and daughter, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Garry Loeb lives his life with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for others; rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which he has displayed throughout his life and throughout his leadership of the Monroe Temple Beth-El for 31 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor an eminent gentleman and unparalleled spiritual leader, Rabbi Garry Loeb, noting the significance of his unremitting dedication and sagacious leadership on behalf of the Monroe Temple Beth-El, the Monroe community, and the countless individuals who were sustained through his caring benevolence throughout his life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Garry Loeb.