

## 2021-J583

Senate Resolution No. 583

BY: Senator KAPLAN

COMMENDING The Honorable Thomas F. Liotti upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as Justice of the Village of Westbury, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those singular individuals who devote their purposeful lives and careers to preserving the rights and protecting the welfare of the citizens of their community and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in the Westbury community has been ably served and uniquely enriched through the selfless dedication and benevolent concern of Judge Thomas F. Liotti; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Honorable Thomas F. Liotti upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as Justice of the Village of Westbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Plainview Old Bethpage High School in Long Island, New York in 1965, Thomas F. Liotti attended Ohio State University before earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Adelphi University in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Thomas F. Liotti went on to earn a Master's degree in Public Administration from CUNY, as well as a Juris Doctor degree in 1976, from the Delaware Law School, where he was a published member of the Law Review and President of the Student Bar Association; he also attended New York University School of Law, completing its Masters of Law Program in Taxation; and

WHEREAS, Thomas F. Liotti began his illustrious career when he was appointed as Chair of the Code Review Commission for the Incorporated Village of Westbury; during this time, he served on the Criminal Justice Act Panel in the Southern District of New York (1981-1987), and in the Eastern District of New York (1978-1991); and

WHEREAS, From approximately 1981-1984, Thomas F. Liotti served on the Article 18-B Trial and Appeals Panels in the Appellate Division, First Department; beginning in 1978, and for 25 years thereafter, he also served on the Article 18-B Panel in Nassau; and

WHEREAS, Thomas F. Liotti served on the first committee which established the Major Felony and Homicide Panels in Nassau County and on a separate committee of the Bar Association of Nassau County which mandated CLE for Article 18-B panelists; this was the first mandatory CLE program in the State for lawyers; additionally, he founded and established the Assigned Counsel Sub-Committee for State and Federal Courts of the Criminal Law and Procedure Committee, Bar Association of Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, From 1984 to 1986, this extraordinary man served pro bono publico, as a Judge on Nassau County Medical Malpractice Panels; in

1985, he brought about a major investigation of conditions at the Metropolitan Correction Center in New York, where he was instrumental in

the major improvements in conditions at the jail; he brought about a similar investigation and improved conditions at the MDC in Brooklyn, in 1995; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, he was a vital component in the successful rule change in the Appellate Division, Second Department to allow for the granting of bail pending appeal for non-violent convicted felons and to permit their appeals to be heard on the basis of the original record; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1997, Thomas F. Liotti was named as General Counsel to the Wyandanch Union Free School District, a position he held until 2000, when he was unanimously appointed to the newly formed Town of North Hempstead Councilmatic District Commission; as a result of his efforts in this capacity, women and minorities were added to the commission, voters approved increasing the number of Town Council seats from four to six, and a minority district was created; and

WHEREAS, On September 22, 2010, Thomas F. Liotti was named by the Nassau County Executive and the County Attorney as Special Counsel for Legal Services to represent the County of Nassau for specified litigations in federal litigation, municipal law and appellate practice; and

WHEREAS, Having served on the bench as Village Justice in Westbury, New York for 26 years, Judge Thomas F. Liotti has developed an impeccable reputation for his judicial temperament, integrity and superior settlement skills; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to his profession, Thomas F. Liotti is the former President of several legal and community organizations including the Kiwanis Club International, the Columbian Lawyers' Association,

Criminal Courts Bar Association of Nassau County and New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NYSACDL), to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, He is also a Fellow in the American Board of Criminal Lawyers and Life Member of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NYSACDL) and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL); and

WHEREAS, In addition to his distinguished legal career, Thomas F. Liotti has published more than 200 legal articles and Op-Ed pieces and book reviews, and served as a columnist for the Community Newspapers of Long Island; he also serves as an Adjunct Professor in the subject of Litigation in the Legal Studies Department of Nassau Community College; and

WHEREAS, Throughout a life and career of purposeful endeavor, Judge Thomas F. Liotti has remained true to his commitment, serving family, faith and community, as well as the law; his contributions and accomplishments have brought great benefit and positive influence to bear upon the course of jurisprudence and the quality of life for others; and

WHEREAS, Respected by both attorneys and defendants alike, Judge Thomas F. Liotti always conducted an impartial and objective court; he treated all defendants with compassion and dignity while at the same time remaining fair in his rulings; and

WHEREAS, Judge Thomas F. Liotti, in every capacity in which he served, has left his permanent mark on the criminal justice community and will forever be remembered as a determined, innovative and genuinely concerned expert in his field; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Thomas F. Liotti upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as Justice of the Village of Westbury, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Thomas F. Liotti.