

2021-J836

Senate Resolution No. 836

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of Civitello's
Italian Pastry Shoppe of Schenectady, New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals and businesses that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is also the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those who work to better their local community and to keep local traditions alive; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Civitello's Italian Pastry Shoppe of Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Civitello arrived in America from Alvignano, Italy in 1911, at the age of 16; after working at GE in Schenectady, he decided to open an establishment dedicated to his Italian roots, and in September of 1921, Civitello's was born at its current location, 42 North Jay Street, the former site of the Vittoria Cafe, another Italian pastry shoppe; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1922, Ralph Civitello and the former Rose Mastrianni were united in marriage and together they began to create many of the culinary traditions which have been carried throughout the years; during the difficult years of the Depression, Ralph was forced to get a full-time job at the city water department to supplement his income; however, with the support of Rose, the store remained open during this difficult time; and

WHEREAS, During the 1920s and 1930s, the Civitello's had four daughters, all of whom spent tireless hours helping their parents in the store, while making their home upstairs in the apartment above the pastry shoppe; and

WHEREAS, During the mid-1940s, the store changed its name for a short period of time to Modern Sweet Shop, before officially becoming Civitello's Pastry Shoppe in the late 1940s; this beloved store continued to prosper throughout the next few decades, mainly through word of mouth as they continued to rely on homemade family recipes; and

WHEREAS, Rose Civitello died in 1967, followed by Ralph Civitello in 1974, leaving the store and the family secrets to their second daughter, Katie; and

WHEREAS, Katie continued on the traditions of her parents, working long laborious hours in the pastry shoppe, while serving as a surrogate matriarch for Ralph and Rose's grandchildren, all of whom pitched in whenever they were able, especially during the busy holiday seasons; and

WHEREAS, Beatrice began her reign as head volunteer in the 1970s, and after her high school graduation in 1978, Angela became a full-time apprentice to Katie, working side by side with her for many years; Roie came into the business full-time in the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, When Katie passed away in 1999, she left an irreplaceable hole in the family, however her legacy lives on today; her indomitable spirit, strong work ethic, and family traditions have been instilled in the Angerami sisters who have become the third generation to carry on the family traditions passed on from Ralph, while adding their own touch and expanding the culinary delights now served at the store; and

WHEREAS, For 100 years, Civitello's Italian Pastry Shoppe has offered its loyal Schenectady area customers the finest quality foods and products, and the highest standards of service while remaining a gathering place for young and old alike and retaining the same old-time charm which has so characterized its past; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business and its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Civitello's Italian Pastry Shoppe of Schenectady, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Civitello's Italian Pastry Shoppe of Schenectady, New York.