

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Gary Siegel upon the occasion of his retirement after 32 years of exemplary service as an educator

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Gary Siegel upon the occasion of his retirement after 32 years of exemplary service as an educator; and

WHEREAS, Gary Siegel was born in Liberty Loomis Hospital in 1958; he grew up in Livingston Manor, graduated from the Livingston Manor Central School in 1976, and went on to attend Ithaca College from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in Education in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Gary Siegel began his esteemed career with the Livingston Manor Central School District, teaching general and vocal music from 1980 to 1983; he then returned to Ithaca College for a year to complete a master's degree in music education, whereupon he joined the Liberty Central School District in 1984; and

WHEREAS, From 1985 to 1990, Gary Siegel taught instrumental music at the Liberty Elementary School; he was transferred to the new middle school upon its completion, where he remains teaching today; and

WHEREAS, Gary Siegel has been the Director of Music for the Liberty Central School District since 1985; over the course of his extraordinary tenure, he has chaired numerous Sullivan County Music Educators' Association (SCMEA) and New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Music Festivals, including Area All-state, Solo Evaluation and more than a dozen All-County Festivals, engaging thousands of youngsters from Sullivan County and the greater Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, Gary Siegel has earned the respect and admiration of his students, colleagues, peers and community for the extraordinary commitment, care and standard of excellence he has brought to the scholastic music programs in his charge; and

WHEREAS, Gary Siegel is an active member and past president of SCMEA, NYSSMA and the Music Educators National Conference (MENC); he serves on the NYSSMA Government Relations Committee, and is also a member of the Liberty Central School Facilities Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, Active in the community, Gary Siegel is a member of the Livingston Manor and Liberty Rotary Clubs and has chaired the Livingston Manor Rotary Ice Carnival for many years; furthermore, he has been instrumental in supporting Rotary Youth Activities, serving as co-chair of the annual raffle and other fundraising events; and

WHEREAS, Acknowledging his efforts of in-depth magnitude, Gary Siegel has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including: the 1988 Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship Award, Distinguished Citizen of the Year, 2003, by the Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce, 2004 Liberty Elks Citizen of the Year, and the Child Advocate of the year 2007 Award by the Sullivan County Child Care Council; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Gary Siegel provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 28 years, Judy, and

their two children, Georgia and Max, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Gary Siegel has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of the Liberty Central School District, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals whose lifework is to support our proud tradition of public education, employing their skills and talents for the benefit of youth and our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Gary Siegel upon the occasion of his retirement after 32 years of exemplary service as an educator, and for his significant contributions to scholastic music in New York State; and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gary Siegel.