

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Susan V. DeLuke upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Leadership Award by the Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region, New York

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Susan V. DeLuke has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Susan V. DeLuke upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Leadership Award by the Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region, New York, to be celebrated at its 11th Annual Unlocking the Possibilities Gala on Saturday, April 13, 2013, at the Glen Sanders Mansion, Scotia, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region, New York, serves people living with autism in the Greater Capital District and their families; through advocacy, public awareness, education and compassionate support, it promotes lifelong access and opportunities for people on the autism spectrum and their families so they can be fully participating, included members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Susan DeLuke is Associate Professor of Special Education at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, where she teaches courses in autism, emotional and behavioral disorders, partnerships with families and positive behavior supports at the graduate and undergraduate levels; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Susan DeLuke is receiving the Leadership Award due to her unwavering dedication and passion to the autism community, serving on the Board of Directors of the Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region for six years, creating and coordinating innovative programs at The College of Saint Rose, and encouraging students to become educators in the field of special education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Susan DeLuke began her career as a special education teacher in the late 1970s, working with children with autism and emotional and behavioral disorders; she earned a doctorate in special education from Syracuse University in 1992, and joined The College of Saint Rose faculty that same year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Susan DeLuke started the Social Intervention Programs for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders at The College of Saint Rose in 2003 due to the absence of available resources for families and children at that time, particularly in the social-emotional area; and

WHEREAS, Currently these consist of four separate initiatives: the Friday Knights Recreation and Family Support Program, which provides a variety of social and leisure opportunities to approximately 235 children each semester through the volunteer efforts of over 200 College of Saint Rose students; the Social Skills and Understanding Groups, which provide more focused social education; the student-initiated Fishes Swim Program, which provides children individual swimming instruction; and the Summer Days Program, an end of summer one-week camp program that focuses on social development and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Dr. Susan DeLuke has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Dr. Susan DeLuke has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Susan V. DeLuke upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Leadership Award by the Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Susan V. DeLuke.