

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Steven D. Matsas upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Young Leadership Award by the Aleh Foundation

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those distinguished citizens who devote their time and energies to the service of their community and profession, participating in civic affairs and enhancing the character and quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Steven D. Matsas upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Young Leadership Award by the Aleh Foundation; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at the Foundation's Annual Awards Dinner, to be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, the Aleh Foundation was formed by a group of women to help cope with the staggering needs of disabled children in Israel; in 1989, a United States fundraising office was established and expanded the Foundation's public relations and fundraising activities; and

WHEREAS, The Aleh Foundation has developed a network of more than 30,000 friends throughout the United States who are staunch supporters; with the Foundation's help, the rehabilitation centers in Israel grew from a hospice program of 23 children to become the nation's largest provider of educational rehabilitative services to severely developmentally disabled children operating in four different cities in Israel; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Aleh Foundation also sends highly specialized equipment to Israel for use by disabled children, including therapeutic communication toys; specialized cups and spoons; custom designed carriages and wheelchairs, hard-to-obtain medicines, clothing and many personal items; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Steven D. Matsas attended Magen David Yeshivah elementary and high school where he was involved in many of the school's events and programs, and was honored with a Community Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation with a New York State Regents Diploma, Steven D. Matsas attended Kings Borough Community College; while taking night classes he began working at JEWISH IMAGE magazine, where he has worked his way up from junior salesman to managing editor; and

WHEREAS, As the managing editor of JEWISH IMAGE magazine, the largest Jewish monthly magazine, Steven D. Matsas works to improve Jewish education, political standing and social issues for the Jewish community while promoting educational, social and cultural programs to ensure the survival of Sephardic heritage and customs; and

WHEREAS, Steven D. Matsas has used his vast talents to help many organizations, including the Sephardic Community Center where he served on the committee of the Young Adult Department; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Steven D. Matsas joined the NYPD Auxiliary Police Program where he started as a police officer and was promoted to Sergeant and then to Lieutenant; he has also completed the New York State EMT program and volunteers at the NYC Community EMS Volunteer Ambulance Service; and

WHEREAS, Steven D. Matsas and his wife, Randi Yaron, are the proud parents of two beautiful children, Shelly and Ben; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Steven D. Matsas 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 Steven D. Matsas has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their profession and community, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Steven D. Matsas upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Young Leadership Award by the Aleh Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Steven D. Matsas.