

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Philip Abitabile upon the occasion of being selected as the 2013 Person of the Year by the Columbia County Association of the city of 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, Philip Abitabile has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Philip Abitabile upon the occasion of being selected as the 2013 Person of the Year by the Columbia County Association of the city of New York, to be celebrated on Thursday, May 2, 2013, at Gallagher's Steak House in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, The Columbia County Association in the city of New York was founded in 1902 to bring together Columbia County and New York City residents with common interests, including those from New York City who had homes or businesses in Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, A retired Germantown High School teacher, Philip Abitabile is also a Hudson Correctional Facility teacher, city of Hudson Commissioner of Youth, and former Commissioner of the New York State Bridge Authority; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Philip Abitabile runs the Taconic Associates Driving School and is a member of the Columbia-Greene Community College Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Hudson, the son of Mary and Antonio Abitabile, Philip graduated from Hudson High School in 1967, and then SUNY Albany, before teaching business and education classes at Germantown Central School for 13 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, he left Germantown, to teach at the New York State Department of Corrections as a business teacher and counselor; he oversaw the accreditation of the facility and rose to become administrator of the Hudson Work Release Program, where he helped find work for ex-convicts; and

WHEREAS, His dedication to the youth of his community made him the city of Hudson Commissioner of Youth for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, Philip Abitabile, along with Bill Gallo, headed the Home for the Holiday campaign in which 14 servicemen were brought home for the Christmas holidays from Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, The Hudson Jaycees named Philip Abitabile Educator of the Year, and Young Man of the Year in 1981; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Philip Abitabile was appointed commissioner of the New York State Bridge Authority, and was later named chairman of the board; he was later named to the city of Hudson Zoning Board of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Philip Abitabile credits much of his success to his hard working parents, Antonio and Mary Abitabile, the children of Italian immigrants, who gave him and his brother, Francis, guidance and support while stressing the importance of education and hard work; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, Philip Abitabile co-chaired with Dominick Lizzi, the Italian Earthquake Committee to raise funds for Italian children affected by an earthquake in southern Italy; and

WHEREAS, At Germantown High School, Philip Abitabile served as President of the teachers union; and

WHEREAS, Philip Abitabile is a former President and current Treasurer of the local chapter of the Columbia County Sons and Daughters of Italy,

and was honored by the organization with the Positive Image Award; he is

also a member of the Hudson Elks Lodge, and has been involved in the past with Little League, Pop Warner and the Columbia County Vikings; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Christine; his son, Antonio; three stepchildren, Sarah, Brett and Jenny; grandson, Gavin Philip; and two step grandchildren, Amelia and Ian, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Philip Abitabile upon the occasion of being selected as the 2013 Person of the Year by the Columbia County Association of the city of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Philip Abitabile.