LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ralph Della Rocca upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2016 Sister Mary Coons Award by The Food Pantries for the Capital District on May 7, 2016

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Della Rocca 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 Ralph Della Rocca upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Sister Mary Coons Award by the Food Pantries for the Capital District to be celebrated at its 22nd Annual Community Auction on Saturday, May 7, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Named in honor of Sister Mary Coons, a Sister of Mercy for 50 years, this auspicious award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of working together to feed the hungry; and

WHEREAS, Working together to feed the hungry since 1979, The Food Pantries for the Capital District is a coalition of 53 food pantries located in Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties; annually, The Food Pantries helps fund, collect and deliver nearly 2 million pounds of food for its member pantries, which provides approximately 2.5 million meals; and

WHEREAS, The Food Pantries for the Capital District supports its member pantries by providing service coordination, education, training, opportunities for networking, infant needs and holiday meal programs; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Della Rocca has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, For over 16 years, Ralph Della Rocca has served as a steadfast and dedicated volunteer at the Food Pantry of Christ Our Light Catholic Church, providing over 400 hours of assistance each year; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Volunteer Supervisor, Ralph Della Rocca knows and understands the day-to-day operations of the Food Pantry better than anyone; he is always the first to arrive and the last to leave; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Della Rocca is involved in many aspects of this vital community resource including transporting donated items from the Church to the food pantry, delivering food orders to homebound clients, and organizing the collection and distribution of back-to-school clothes and warm winter garments; he is also instrumental in the success of the Annual Food Pantry Community Auction; and

WHEREAS, Dependable and humble, Ralph Della Rocca appreciates the clients and always does his best to serve their needs with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the Food Pantry of Christ Our Light Catholic Church, Ralph Della Rocca assists with other activities in the Church and helps with senior groups; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Ralph Della Rocca has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor Ralph Della Rocca upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Sister Mary Coons Award by the Food Pantries for the Capital District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ralph Della Rocca.