

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rebecca and Brad Junco, owners of Empire Wine and Liquor Outlet, upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2016 Corporate Partner of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany on April 16, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rebecca and Brad Junco, owners of Empire Wine and Liquor Outlet, upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2016 Corporate Partner of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany, to be celebrated at its Annual Visionary Gala, on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at the Franklin Plaza Ballroom in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 1908, the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany (NABA) has provided comprehensive services and programs to residents of the greater Capital Region who are blind or visually impaired; in 2015, they helped over 900 individuals of all ages across 11 counties adapt to vision loss, maximize remaining vision, achieve their goals, and expand their independence; and

WHEREAS, In addition, NABA offered screenings to over 3,300 children between 18 months and five years of age for possible vision problems; and

WHEREAS, Owners of Empire Wine and Liquor Outlet, Rebecca and Brad Junco met as students at their elementary school in Guilderland, New York; in 2005, the couple married, and today, they happily raise their two children in Voorheesville, New York; and

WHEREAS, As a young child, Brad Junco spent weekends working at his father's wine and liquor store in Downtown Albany, gaining expertise about how to run the business; after attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York, Brad returned home to manage and update the family business; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Brad Junco bought his own wine shop in Albany; Capital Wine grew to become a neighborhood fixture, and was voted "Best Wine Shop" by local publications for a number of years; two years later, Brad began utilizing the internet to expand his business; and

WHEREAS, It was through Capital Wine that Rebecca and Brad Junco found a way to use their successful business as a way of giving back to the community; together, they became involved with numerous local organizations and charities by donating wine and various auction items; and

WHEREAS, After meeting Christopher Burke, the Executive Director/CEO of the NABA, Rebecca and Brad Junco gave of their time and energies to raise funds to further the mission of this worthy organization; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Rebecca and Brad Junco made the move from Capital Wine to Empire Wine in Colonie, New York; as their business continues to grow, so does the number of charities and groups that they assist; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable couple also started the Go Green and Give Back campaign as a way to give back to their community, promote sustainable behavior and implement green initiatives to help protect the environment by selling reusable wine totes; the substantial proceeds are then donated to a different charity or organization each month; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Rebecca and Brad Junco have displayed throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, 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 Rebecca and Brad Junco, owners of Empire Wine and Liquor Outlet, upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2016 Corporate Partner of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rebecca and Brad Junco, Owners, Empire Wine and Liquor Outlet.