

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Peter and Gretchen Koch upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Sharing the Light Award by the Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes on June 16th, 2016

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, Peter and Gretchen Koch have given not only of their time and energies but also of their competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently have been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Peter and Gretchen Koch upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Sharing the Light Award by the Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes on Thursday, June 16th, 2016, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York; and

WHEREAS, Peter and Gretchen Koch have been called upon to contribute their time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and have always given of themselves unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Peter Koch valiantly served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1964 to 1967, before a business opportunity brought him to the Finger Lakes Region; he was employed at H & L Ford in Auburn, New York from 1970-1979; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Peter Koch opened his first car business, and spent his illustrious career as owner of: Peter Koch Lincoln-Mercury, 1979-1994; Peter Koch Chrysler Plymouth Dodge, 1983-2012; and Peter Koch Chrysler Dodge Jeep, 1990-2008; and

WHEREAS, Peter Koch received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, and Gretchen attended Hobart & William Smith Colleges; she is also a graduate of the National Auto Dealer Academy; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to the Finger Lakes Region, Gretchen and Peter Koch have contributed to several community projects; Gretchen has served on the board of several organizations including the Seneca Falls Library, the Historical Society, the National Women's Hall of Fame and Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Gretchen Koch has volunteered with the Seneca County Children's Committee and the House of Concern; and

WHEREAS, Peter Koch has been a member of the Board of Portal de Belen, St. Patrick's Parish Council and St. Joseph's Parish Council; he has also served as President of the Board of DeSales Regional High School; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, together the couple has volunteered at St. Patrick's School, DeSales High School and McQuaid Jesuit High School; and

WHEREAS, Peter and Gretchen Koch have generously supported numerous initiatives such as a retreat center at a diocesan mission in Tabasco, Mexico, a Habitat House in Seneca County, tuition for several students at DeSales High School, the St. Patrick's Annual Basketball Tournament, and St. Anthony's Festival; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Peter and Gretchen Koch support Ann Marie Zon's Nicaragua Project at St. Francis/St. Clare Parish, Father Joseph Thomas' work in Gujarat, India, and Fr. Gaesser's project, el Portal de Belen, in the Dominican Republic where he feeds approximately 1,000 children each day; and

WHEREAS, The Kochs have been the recipient of countless awards and accolades including, Community Service awards from the Seneca County Youth Bureau, Seneca County Fair and the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed couple also received the Red Kettle Award from the Salvation Army, and Peter was bestowed with the Outstanding Catholic School Graduate Award for his work at St. Patrick's School; in 2009, Gretchen received a special award for her work on the Induction Ceremony for the National Women's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, With them throughout have been their children, Kimberly, Heather, Charlotte and George, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of their lives and rejoice in their achievements; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, Peter and Gretchen Koch have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Peter and Gretchen Koch have displayed throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Peter and Gretchen Koch upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Sharing the Light Award by the Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes on June 16th, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Peter and Gretchen Koch.