

**BY:** Senator CROCI

**COMMENDING** Richie Cannata upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2017 Italian American of the Year Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who foster ethnic pride and strive to preserve their cultural heritage, thereby enhancing the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of community throughout this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Richie Cannata upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2017 Italian American of the Year Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators to be celebrated on Monday, June 5, 2017, in Albany, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Richie Cannata was born and raised in Brooklyn and then Long Island; his parents were born in New York as well and his grandparents who came through Ellis Island at the turn of the century; and

**WHEREAS,** Richie Cannata's grandfather was born in Calabria and his grandmother was from Palermo; he is a pure third generation Italian; and

**WHEREAS,** Growing up, Richie Cannata studied classical piano but it does not stop there; he also studied the clarinet, flute, keyboards, and saxophone with the tenor saxophone being his forte; and

**WHEREAS,** In his twenties, Richie Cannata performed and toured with Billy Joel and often returns to perform on stage with him as he did on the New Year's Eve 2000 Millennium Show at Madison Square Garden along with a 12 show run in 2006; and

**WHEREAS,** During the mid 1990s, Richie Cannata toured with the Beach Boys; in his experience with them, he also worked with John Stamos as he and the Beach Boys would appear on the hit sitcom, "Full House" together; recently, Ritchie contributed to Brian Wilson's new CD; and

**WHEREAS,** Richie Cannata is not only a professional musician but also a music producer; he has produced albums for Phoebe Snow, Rita Coolidge, Corey Hart, and Tommy Shaw; he has worked with not only Billy Joel and the Beach Boys, but Celine Dion, Jennifer Lopez, Bernie Williams, and many others; and

**WHEREAS,** Richie Cannata's musical work can also be heard in the motion pictures "Remo Williams - The Adventure Begins" and "Slaves of New York"; all of his extensive work behind the scenes in music led him to open Cove City Sound Studios, a state-of-the-art recording studio in

Glen Cove, New York, he co-owns with his son, Eren Cannata; and

**WHEREAS,** Currently, Richie Cannata is working on many production projects at Cove City Sound Studios in addition to hosting Monday Night Jams at the Bitter End; he is also the musical director of former New York Yankee and Latin Grammy nominated jazz artist, Bernie Williams and his band; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2011, Richie Cannata released his debut solo album titled **Richie Cannata**, now being sold online; 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 commend Richie Cannata upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2017 Italian American of the Year Award by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Richie Cannata.