

BY: Senator TEDISCO

HONORING Rich Carley Jr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition, in conjunction with the observance of April 2018, as Organ Donor Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is with profound intent that this Legislative Body is moved to honor a man of such selfless spirit whose caring nature will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rich Carley Jr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition, in conjunction with the observance of April 2018, as Organ Donor Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Rich Carley Jr. died on March 15, 2018, at the age of 37; known by many for his big heart, this true humanitarian helped save five lives, including that of his childhood best friend Salvatore Casale, through an organ donation of his heart, lungs and kidneys; and

WHEREAS, Rich Carley Jr. and Salvatore Casale grew up in Johnstown, New York; their families lived across the street from one another; their mothers, Linda Cecconi and Mirella Casale, were friends even before the boys were born; and

WHEREAS, After the boys came along, they were inseparable whether riding big wheels or bikes, playing on the same little league team, going to Boy Scouts together, having sleepovers, accompanying family vacations together or getting into mischief; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Johnstown High School in 1998, Rich Carley Jr. attended Northeastern University in Boston where he majored in music; he lived and worked in Boston for several years where he met his business partner, Scott Shor; they opened three successful craft beer businesses: the Charleston Beer Exchange, Edmund's Oast Exchange and the Greenville Beer Exchange; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Rich Carley Jr. married his wife, Caleigh; and

WHEREAS, It was at the time of his unexpected death that Rich Carley Jr.'s mother found out that her son, unsurprising to her due to his kind and compassionate spirit, was an organ donor; and

WHEREAS, As the family discussed how best to carry out Rich Carley's Jr. wishes, they remembered his friend Salvatore Casale who was diagnosed with kidney disease in 2014 and hospitalized, was in need of a kidney transplant; and

WHEREAS, In August of 2016, Salvatore Casale was diagnosed with end stage kidney failure; he was placed on the United Network for Organ Sharing federal transplant list; and

WHEREAS, Just days after Rich Carley Jr.'s death, Salvatore received a call from Rich's sister, enquiring what hospital he was registered through and what his blood type is to see if a direct kidney donation could be made; and

WHEREAS, Childhood besties, Salvatore Casale and Rich Carley Jr. were a match and Salvatore underwent a successful kidney transplant at the State University of New York Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, on March 18, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Today, Salvatore Casale is doing well; regular check-ups are showing the kidney is hitting the benchmarks for functioning that doctor's look for following a transplant; furthermore, he has not required dialysis since the surgery; he is truly grateful his friend chose to give the gift of life and he was the recipient; and

WHEREAS, Each year the waiting list for organ transplants grows longer; many people die before an organ becomes available; the need for organ donation is real and urgent; and

WHEREAS, While Salvatore Casale is the only recipient of Rich Carley Jr.'s organs that his mother can name, she received word his other kidney, heart and lungs went to four other anonymous recipients; in addition, she was informed that his "bigger-than-life" heart went to a 15-year-old in Charleston, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Funny, kind, and loving, many agree the world was a better place with Rich Carley Jr. in it; his decision to be an organ donor has perfectly guaranteed his selfless spirit will live on; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rich Carley Jr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition, in conjunction with the observance of April 2018, as Organ Donor Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Rich Carley Jr., and Salvatore Casale.