

BY: Senator BONACIC

COMMENDING Joseph W. Ricciardi posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the Port Jervis School District Alumni Hall of Fame on October 8, 2017

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those distinguished citizens who devoted their time and energies to the service of their community and profession, participating in civic affairs and enhancing the character and quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Joseph W. Ricciardi posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the Port Jervis School District Alumni Hall of Fame, celebrated at the 8th Annual Port Jervis School District Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet on Sunday, October 8, 2017, at Erie Trackside Manor in Port Jervis, New York; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Port Jervis School District Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have achieved personal success and have made a significant contribution to society, serving as role models to inspire current and future generations of Port Jervis students; a member of the Class of 1936, Joseph W. Ricciardi is truly deserving of this great honor; and

WHEREAS, Joseph William Ricciardi was born on April 15, 1915, in Port Jervis; at the young age of eight, he began working for the Kissen News Agency; in 1971, he officially retired from the newspaper distributing company after more than five decades of service; and

WHEREAS, In 1941, Joseph W. Ricciardi married the former Grayce Hardwick, and together, the couple raised seven children; Joseph and Grayce owned and operated the Mayor's Corner, a popular store on Pennsylvania Avenue in Matamoras; and

WHEREAS, Joseph W. Ricciardi proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his community, Joseph W. Ricciardi held the title of Mayor of Matamoras, Pennsylvania, for 31 years until his retirement in 2002; he was also a member of the Matamoras Recreation Committee and the Matamoras Planning Board, as well as Treasurer of the Pike County Cooperative Office; and

WHEREAS, An avid sports fan, Joseph W. Ricciardi served as a referee for Pop Warner Youth Football, and an umpire for various adult softball leagues, and the Port Jervis Little League for more than 20 years; he also enjoyed bowling in numerous leagues at Port Jervis Bowl, and in 1987, he was inducted into the Middletown Bowling Association Hall of

Fame for his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, This well-respected public servant and much loved gentleman died in 2003, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Joseph W. Ricciardi stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Joseph W. Ricciardi posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the Port Jervis School District Alumni Hall of Fame on October 8, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joseph Ricciardi.