

BY: Senator ADDABBO

COMMENDING Ricky Byrd upon the occasion of being selected as an honoree for this year's Italian American Day on June 3, 2019

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Ricky Byrd upon the occasion of being selected as an honoree for this year's Italian American Day to be celebrated on Monday, June 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Ricky Byrd is a part of rock 'n roll royalty; he is a well-recognized musician who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as the lead guitarist and former original member of Joan Jett and The Blackhearts; since that time, he has also recorded or toured with Roger Daltrey, Ian Hunter, Southside Johnny and many other talented musicians; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, Ricky Byrd has been combining his love for music with his passion and mission to change the stigma surrounding drug and alcohol use; he hopes to break down the barriers and spread the message of hope, education, awareness and addiction resources to his audiences; and

WHEREAS, A man living in long term recovery, Ricky Byrd uses the healing powers of music to motivate those early in recovery or still struggling, along with their family members; whether it is through his various speaking appearances, concert events, music outreach sessions, small recovery music groups, or prevention programs, he is dedicated to inspiring change; and

WHEREAS, As a songwriter, who now often focuses on recovery lyrics, Ricky Byrd strives to make people laugh, cry and think; he has played his songs in the most intimate of rooms as well as to hundreds of thousands all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Ricky Byrd truly believes music therapy and the open discussion which follows can lead broken souls to find a little bit of happiness and encouragement to move forward; his latest CD, **Clean Getaway**, offers messages of hope and inspiration for those seeking sobriety; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to helping those struggling with addictions, Ricky Byrd was the recipient of the 2017 Drug Free Heroes Award by Foundation For a Drug free World; 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 Ricky Byrd upon the occasion of being selected as an honoree for this year's Italian American Day on June 3, 2019; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ricky Byrd.