

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING Sarkis Balukjian upon the occasion
of celebrating his 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Sarkis Balukjian upon the occasion of his 100th Birthday to be celebrated at a party with family and friends at Morley's restaurant in Massena, New York; and

WHEREAS, Sarkis Balukjian was born on June 28, 1921, to Karaken and Serpouhi Balukjian in Massena where he attended local schools; after graduating, he earned his degree from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York; and

WHEREAS, Sarkis Balukjian proudly served his country as a member of the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II in the European and Pacific Theaters; on September 12, 1948, he married his late wife of 70 years, Alice, in Lyon, France, and together, they settled in Massena where he operated the American Dry Cleaners for over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his community, Sarkis Balukjian was a member of the Armenian Community Center, St. John's Episcopal Church, the Masons, and the Resource Center for Independent Living; he and his wife also enjoyed spending time with their beloved family, square dancing and traveling, both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his four children, Sona (Ray), Gregory, Lillian (Jeffrey) and David; two grandchildren, Brian (Regina) and Sarah (Christopher); and four great-grandchildren, Cassandra, William, Katherine and Isabelle, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Sarkis Balukjian, with his zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, Sarkis Balukjian has enriched the lives of those around him through his joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Sarkis Balukjian upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sarkis Balukjian.