

Senate Resolution No. 1947

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING Steven and Michelle Klosek upon the occasion of celebrating 35 years in business on March 1, 2022

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those individuals and businesses which substantially contribute to the economic vitality of their communities and the entire 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 Steven and Michelle Klosek upon the occasion of celebrating 35 years in business on Tuesday, March 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Steven and Michelle Klosek are truly the heart and soul of Varick Street in Utica, New York, where they have built an arts and entertainment hub with their three extraordinary and successful businesses, The Varick Bar and Grill, The Stief, and Sicken@624; and

WHEREAS, The Varick Bar and Grill, located at 618 Varick Street, was built in the 1850s as a small hotel with a tavern on the bottom floor; and

WHEREAS, The Stief, located at 618-622 Varick Street, was built in 1875 by Primus Stiefvater from Baden, Germany, and was opened as Primus Stiefvater and Sons Butcher Shop on the bottom floor with six beautiful flats above; and

WHEREAS, Also located on Varick Street, The Sickenberger Lane building was formerly Varick Brake and Alignment in the mid-1900s, and its courtyard was once the site of an 1800s home which was torn down in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, In November of 1987, Steven Klosek and two business partners purchased the Stiefvater building, and on March 1st of the following year, they purchased what is now known as The Varick Bar and Grill; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Michelle Klosek served as The Varick's first bartender, drawing a crowd of patrons from Utica and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, The Varick merged with the Stiefvater building and the storefront created a backroom for the Bar and Grill which contained a stage for live bands and bar games such as darts, pool and foosball; and

WHEREAS, In March of 1990, Steve Klosek became sole owner of The Varick Bar and Grill and The Stiefvater building; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Michelle Klosek used her vision and creativity to transform the backroom of The Varick Bar and Grill into the Stiefvater Room, a classy martini bar with specialty drinks, martinis and craft cocktails; and

WHEREAS, One year later, The Varick Bar and Grill created a renowned ventilated smoking room after acquiring a waiver from the Oneida County Health Department, making it the first bar in New York State to receive this waiver after smoking was banned in all bars and restaurants; The Varick was subsequently featured in **The New York Times**; and

WHEREAS, After renovating a deteriorating garage and clearing loads of debris in the adjoining property, Steve and Michelle Klosek opened Sickenberger Lane, an Adirondack style bar, in May of 2005; in 2019, the establishment became known as Sicken@624, and was transformed into a unique art bar with artwork from over 30 local artists adorning its walls and courtyard; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, in January of 2022, Michelle and Steve Klosek renovated The Stief into a 1920s style bar with the instrumental guidance of two dedicated employees, Brenden Boucher and Isabelle Fasolo, who were the lead designers on the project; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to the local community, Michelle Klosek has been actively involved with The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica, the former Downtown Utica Development Association and The Brewery District Association; and

WHEREAS, Steven and Michelle Klosek have been united in marriage since October of 1992; with them throughout have been their two daughters, Stephanie and Taylor, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of their lives and rejoice in their many achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges the Klosek's success, recognizing their contributions to the local and State economies, and extending its highest commendation to their businesses and employees, fully confident that, in their future, they will continue to enjoy the same success which has so characterized their past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Steven and Michelle Klosek upon the occasion of celebrating 35 years in business; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Steven and Michelle Klosek.