

**BY:** Senator BRESLIN

**HONORING** Marta and Mark Koblenz upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Pillars of the Community Award by the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors, and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, family, and community; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Marta and Mark Koblenz upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Pillars of the Community Award by the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center to be celebrated on Sunday, May 15, 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year, this prestigious awards ceremony recognizes individuals for their contributions to the Center and the Jewish community-at-large by acting as moral pillars and dispensers of wisdom and advice, providing continued service and leadership, and acting generously in the spirit of Tzedakah; and

**WHEREAS,** Widely known for their extraordinary dedication to Israel and the local community, Marta and Mark Koblenz's philanthropic and leadership endeavors continue to inspire all of those who are lucky enough to know them; and

**WHEREAS,** Mark and Marta Koblenz grew up in Albany, New York, where their families have long been synonymous with the building and nurturing of vibrant institutions in the Jewish and general communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his life, Mark Koblenz has been an active member of the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center (AJCC); as a child he attended Sunday Funday and was a camper in the AJCC summer day camp, and in high school, was a member of the ABG fraternity; and

**WHEREAS,** Mark Koblenz earned his bachelor's degree from Union College and his law degree from Albany Law School; after graduating, he was an attorney in private practice for 26 years, and for the past 16 years, he has served as the CEO of Daughters of Sarah Community for Seniors; and

**WHEREAS,** Mark Koblenz has been actively involved with the Board of Directors for the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, Jewish Family Services, and LeadingAge NY; in addition to his role on the Board, he has held the title of President for Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District, Daughters of Sarah Nursing Center, and Temple Israel; and

**WHEREAS,** Marta Koblenz was also actively involved with AJCC in her youth, both as a camper and a member of the sorority Delta Psi; and

**WHEREAS,** A graduate of the Milne School, State University of New York at Albany, and The College of Saint Rose, she worked for 30 years as a speech and language therapist serving children from birth to five years old with speech and language delays; and

**WHEREAS,** This remarkable woman served as co-President of Colonie Hadassah, Temple Israel Sisterhood, and Daughters of Sarah Auxiliary, sharing that honor with her mother; she also held the title of President for the Hebrew Academy of the Capital District and has been a member of the Board of Directors of Camp Givah, Daughters of Sarah Jewish Foundation, Hadassah, and Congregation Beth Abraham Jacob; and

**WHEREAS,** With them throughout have been their two daughters and their husbands, and six grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of their lives and rejoice in their achievements; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Marta and Mark Koblenz have displayed throughout their lives; 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 honor Marta and Mark Koblenz upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Pillars of the Community Award by the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Marta and Mark Koblenz.