

Senate Resolution No. 619

**BY:** Senator GAUGHRAN

**COMMENDING** former Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia in recognition of the sign dedication in her honor at Huntington Town Hall on May 5, 2021

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those outstanding citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend former Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia in recognition of the sign dedication in her honor on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at Huntington Town Hall, Huntington, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Jo-Ann Raia, a resident of Huntington since 1958, has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

**WHEREAS,** A Sign Dedication of the Jo-Ann Raia Records Center and Archives will be held to honor this extraordinary woman's distinguished 38-year career as the longest serving Town Clerk in the history of the Town of Huntington, which was founded in 1653; and

**WHEREAS,** First elected in 1981, Jo-Ann Raia began her illustrious career as Town Clerk in 1981, and steadfastly served her community in this esteemed position until the end of 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** One of her most notable achievements as Town Clerk was developing a first-class Records Management Program in 1986 which includes a Records Center and Archives; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, since 1995, Jo-Ann Raia conducted her Valentine's Day Marriage Ceremony "Marathon," hosting a reception for local couples and guests; and

**WHEREAS,** This skilled woman has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including All Around Woman of the Year by the Times in Huntington, American Cancer Society Silver Sword Award, and the Town Clerk of the Year Award by the New York State Town Clerks' Association, recognizing her achievements in promoting the role of town clerks through her professionalism and thorough knowledge of the position; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout her illustrious career, Jo-Ann Raia rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Town of Huntington; and

**WHEREAS,** In her capacity as Town Clerk, Jo-Ann Raia served with loyalty, honor and distinction, truly earning the admiration, esteem and

affection of her colleagues and the community-at-large; and

**WHEREAS,** With her throughout have been her two children, Diane and Andrew, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her many achievements; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Jo-Ann Raia has displayed throughout her life; 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend former Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia in recognition of the sign dedication in her honor at Huntington Town Hall; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jo-Ann Raia.