

BY: Senator MARTINS

HONORING Jane and Joel Ronis upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by HEARTS Port Washington on February 9, 2024

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jane and Joel Ronis upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by HEARTS Port Washington, to be recognized at its Annual Red Party on Friday, February 9, 2024, at the Polish American Hall in Port Washington, New York; and

WHEREAS, HEARTS (Helping Enrich the Arts of Port Washington) is an independent, grassroots not-for-profit 501(c)3 community organization whose mission is to add meaningful value to children's lives and our community by supporting, promoting, and enriching the arts in Port Washington and its public schools; and

WHEREAS, HEARTS funded over 180 grants district-wide since its founding in 2011, as well as scholarships for art and music students for college; the non-profit also provides interactive high-quality programming in theater, music, fine arts, creative writing, dance and much more; and

WHEREAS, HEARTS has created PortFest, a community art and music festival celebrating arts in Port Washington, as well as Curtains Up, an after-school musical theater program for elementary school students; and

WHEREAS, The organization also created Dancing Classrooms, a partnership with the Creative Arts Department, HSA/PTAs, and The Ed Foundation, and college and the Port Washington Summer Music Program; and

WHEREAS, After graduating with a Masters in Directing from The University of Pittsburgh, she embarked on a 15-year career as a professional stage manager working in opera, dance and theatre here and abroad, eventually spending five years as the production stage manager at the prestigious Pittsburgh Public Theatre; and

WHEREAS, She moved to New York, where she met Joel, and worked off-Broadway while starting and raising a family of three children together; a talented culinary master, she is the proud owner of Chef for a Night, a well-regarded catering company with over 10 years of success; and

WHEREAS, Jane Ronis was a founding board member of HEARTS Port Washington (PW) and served as the events chair for many years; she also continued to support the arts in Port Washington as the stage manager

for the Community Synagogue Theatre Company, while running the synagogue's Time for Dinner program which addresses food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Joel Ronis served not only as board member of HEARTS PW, but also as president of the organization; during his tenure, he was proud to introduce local merchant and arts populations to HEARTS PW, working in tandem to raise awareness for critical funding of the arts; and

WHEREAS, He was also responsible for advancing the non-profit's executive and administrative needs, including evaluating, establishing, and maintaining platforms to manage donor relationships; for many years, he owned Minuteman Press in Port Washington, providing printing and design services for a wide-range of clients in and beyond the community; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated theater lover, Joel Ronis continues to perform on Port Washington stages as part of the Community Synagogue Theater Company, Landmark Radio Theater, and others; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, has stood constant in dignity, good grace, and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Jane and Joel Ronis has displayed throughout his/her life; and

WHEREAS, It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Jane and Joel Ronis, that future generations may know and appreciate their admirable character, their many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which they are held by their peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jane and Joel Ronis upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by HEARTS Port Washington on February 9, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jane and Joel Ronis.