

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of Delorio's Foods, Inc., of Utica, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those individuals and businesses that contribute substantially to the economic vitality of their communities, thereby enhancing the economic well-being of 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 commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Delorio's Foods, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, In 1924, Pasquale (Pat) and Giovanni (John) Delorio, with their wives, started their own baking business; they built a coal-fired brick oven, purchased a mixer, and worked together in their bakery which spanned the backyards of three two-family homes; and

WHEREAS, The baking crew expanded, and hearth-baked Italian bread had begun sales in the bakery with house-to-house delivery; in 1926, the first "Tomato Pie" made its debut, served at many weddings in East Utica and sold to homes and stores; the first bagged Italian bread was introduced in 1929; and

WHEREAS, During the Great Depression, the Delorio family aided their community by allowing local housewives to bake their own bread dough for only a penny per pound, and holiday turkeys and hams were baked free of charge; also in the 1930s, the first traveling stone deck oven for Italian bread was introduced; between 1932 and 1934, the first slice & wrap Italian bread entered the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Delorio's Foods, Inc., moved to a 10,000-square-foot facility in 1948; to meet the growing demand, the first walk-in freezer and stored baked bread appeared in the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, To accommodate a customized automated system and three bulk flour silos, Delorio's Foods, Inc., expanded to 22,000 square feet in 1970; nine years later, the original ready-to-operate in-store bakery system, including a training program, was developed and offered for sale by the growing family business; this tremendous stride in the baking industry brought a unique convenience for independent grocery stores to produce their own freshly baked breads with specialty proofers and small ovens; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Delorio's Foods, Inc., added frozen dough to its line of fresh products; this innovation launched the company into the frozen wholesale food service market; throughout the 1990s, the frozen dough and pizza market was the focal point of the industry, and this rapidly expanding enterprise broadened its delivery from Utica, New York, to the Mid-Atlantic region; by 1997, it was time to move to a 90,000-square-foot facility; and

WHEREAS, Over time, focusing on customers' needs and endeavoring to meet those demands produced a successful business in a competitive market; during the 2000s, there were numerous developments, including private labeling, gluten-free products, national locations, international shipping, and investment in the supply to some of the largest retailers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The progression of Delorio's Foods, Inc., is in direct correlation to the efforts of its owners and employees, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the business and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is with immense pride that the hard-working and dedicated staff members of Delorio's Foods, Inc., celebrate this milestone 100th Anniversary and anticipate many more years of success for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business, its contributions to the local and state economies, and its vibrant role in improving the quality of life in its community, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Delorio's Foods, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Delorio's Foods, Inc.