

Senate Resolution No. 1995

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING John J. DePerno of Sylvan Beach,
New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th
Birthday on April 9, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate John J. DePerno upon the occasion of his 100th Birthday to be celebrated with family and friends at Ventura's Restaurant in Utica, New York, on Sunday, April 7, 2024; and

WHEREAS, John J. DePerno was born to Italian immigrants in Utica, New York, on April 9, 1924; he has four brothers, Rock, Carmen, Joseph, and Larry, and two sisters, Mary and Betty; and

WHEREAS, After high school graduation, he obtained a Bachelor in Economics degree from Utica College, now called Utica University, as one of the institution's first class of students; and

WHEREAS, During World War II from 1943-1946, John J. DePerno proudly served in the United States military; in 1947, he married his high school sweetheart, Mafalda "Mitzi" DePastene; the couple were blessed with four daughters; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, John and Mafalda DePerno joyously watched their family expand; Marianne and Joseph Jakubowski, Elaine and Andy Brown, Dorthea Casey, and Joni DePerno-Zahas and Scott Zahas shared in the delight as subsequent generations were added to the lineage; and

WHEREAS, Six grandchildren, Sheri Fanelli, Joey Jakubowski, Justin Casey, Tara Skidd, Kristy McBride, and Scot Zahas, and eight great-grandchildren, Zoe and Kenzie Jakubowski, Alessandra and Adriana Casey, Brantley and Bode McBride, and Michael and Thomas Skidd, have brought happiness and fulfillment to John J. DePerno who enjoys spending time with his family; and

WHEREAS, John J. DePerno was a tractor-trailer driver for Gold Medal Foods; well-known in the hospitality industry, he was manager of Carlton Beach Club, owner and operator of the Forest Hotel (1954-1984), and designer, builder, owner, and operator of Captain John's Restaurant in Sylvan Beach (1973); and

WHEREAS, Active in his community from 1969-1990, John J. DePerno was a founding member of the committee to incorporate the Village of Sylvan Beach, Oneida Lake East Shore Merchants Association (OLESMA), We Care Village Booster Club in Sylvan Beach, and Sylvan Beach Beautification Committee; he was a founding member and editor of the Sylvan Beach News; he served on the Sylvan Beach Planning Board for nine years and was a Village Trustee for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Besides spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, John J. DePerno relishes hunting and cooking; his passions are keeping family close together and providing community service to the Village of Sylvan Beach; he believes that life's greatest riches are family and health; and

WHEREAS, With his zest for life, John J. DePerno has inspired and enriched the lives of his family and friends through the profound charm and wisdom which come only from a fullness of years; this exceptional centenarian has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of, and reserved for, those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments, and outstanding achievements of this Nation during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate John J. DePerno upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday on April 9, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John J. DePerno.