

BY: Senator MARTINS

HONORING Mary Christine Modica upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by Cellini Lodge No. 2206, Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mary Christine Modica upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by Cellini Lodge No. 2206, Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America, to be celebrated at its 55th Annual Scholarship and Charitable Benefit Dinner Dance, "La Festa Delle Donne," on Friday, March 24, 2023, at the Westbury Manor, Westbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, In April of 2015, Mary Christine Modica joined the Cellini Lodge No. 2206, Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America, where she currently serves as President; in addition, she has chaired the five-day annual Italian Festival, is on the Scholarship and Gift of Sight Committees, has chaired the Student Summit and is President of the Cellini Charitable Foundation, as well as Treasurer of the District II Presidents; and

WHEREAS, Mary Christine Modica was born in Brooklyn, New York to parents Helen Gulino Modica and Gaspar Modica; her Italian roots can be traced back to Sicily, Italy through her maternal grandparents, Maria Di Giovanna and Vincent Gulino from Sciacca and her paternal grandparents, Antonia Di Giovanna and Vincenzo Modica from Menfi, all of whom arrived in New York State in the late 1880s looking for a better life; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary woman attended St. Martin of Tours Elementary School in Brooklyn before moving to St. Matthias Elementary School in Ridgewood, Queens, New York in fourth grade; upon completing grammar school, she enrolled in Our Lady of Wisdom Academy in Ozone Park, Queens; and

WHEREAS, With the dream of pursuing a career as an elementary school teacher in her youth, Mary Christine Modica graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from St. John's University where she served as historian of her sorority, Iota Sigma Phi, before becoming its president; and

WHEREAS, Mary Christine Modica furthered her career by attending Hofstra University, while teaching full-time in Commack, Long Island, and obtaining a Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education; and

WHEREAS, After teaching in Commack for more than 20 years, Mary Christine Modica earned a Professional Diploma in Administration from C.W. Post, where she was a member of Phi Delta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, After an impressive academic career, Mary Christine Modica relocated to Columbia County for her first position as a building and elementary advisor; she later returned to Long Island and accepted a position in the Southampton School District; and

WHEREAS, Mary Christine Modica went on to serve as Principal of the J. Fred Sparke Elementary School in the Island Trees School District where she remained until her retirement after a successful and rewarding 41-year career in education; and

WHEREAS, As a testament to the countless lives she touched, Mary Christine Modica received numerous awards and accolades from organizations such as the Nassau County Principals' Association, where she served as Treasurer; she also received the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Life Member Awards and the National PTA Life Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, she was the proud recipient of the Everyday Hero Award from the Kiwanis Club, and received recognition from the Boy Scouts of America as well as the New York City Fire Department's Woodside Warriors for helping the Company and their families deal with tragedies; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to volunteering, Mary Christine Modica has given tirelessly of her time and energies to the American Cancer Society in Queens, New York, serving on its Executive Board; she also became very involved with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Brentwood Shelter, New Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, and Hope for Youth; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her older sister, Nina, and younger brother, Vincent, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mary Christine Modica upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by Cellini Lodge No. 2206, Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mary Christine Modica.