

BY: Senator MAYER

HONORING Dr. Edward W. Placke, Ed. D upon the occasion of his retirement after six years of distinguished service to Green Chimneys

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Edward W. Placke upon the occasion of his retirement after six years of distinguished service to Green Chimneys; and

WHEREAS, Since 2017, Edward W. Placke has rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to Green Chimneys, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Truly an individual who strives for knowledge, Edward W. Placke obtained a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education from Marist College and a master's degree in Educational Psychology and Statistics and an Ed. D. in Curriculum and Instruction from SUNY Albany; after earning his doctoral degree at SUNY Albany, Dr. Edward W. Placke began his career as a BOCES special education teacher in the Finger Lakes region of New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edward W. Placke followed his passion and went on to teach college students with disabilities, as well as graduate students studying special education; he also served as school principle at the Center for the Disabled, and was a supervisor of special education for Capital Region BOCES; and

WHEREAS, With 40 years of expertise in serving children with special needs, Dr. Edward W. Placke spent five years as Assistant Commissioner of the New York State Education Department, Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities; as Director of Pupil Services for Colonie School District for 13 years, he had oversight of around 250 staff in special education, guidance, reading and math, speech and language, occupational therapy and physical therapy, psychology, and ESL, with additional responsibility for program development and evaluation, curricula development, labor relations, and budget development and monitoring; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Dr. Edward W. Placke served as Superintendent of Schools for Greenburgh North Castle Union Free School District; under his leadership, the district maintained the highest graduation rate for alternative junior and high schools, with over 50 percent of district graduates attending college, and the remainder of the student body attending vocational training programs or obtaining supportive and competitive employment; and

WHEREAS, His unbridled commitment to children with special needs continued in Dr. Edward W. Placke's leadership of Green Chimneys, where he focused to prepare students for adulthood; and

WHEREAS, Green Chimneys is a nonprofit education and human services organization primarily serving children with special needs; the organization is comprised of a therapeutic day school, residential treatment center, and working farm; and

WHEREAS, Providing for over 250 students, Green Chimneys offers individualized education, therapeutic support, and a unique nature-based approach to address a wide range of social, emotional, and behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edward W. Placke was elected to the Board of Directors of the 853 School Coalition in 2017 and was later elected Vice President in 2018; his remarkable leadership led to him being elected President in 2020; and

WHEREAS, As a result of Dr. Edward W. Placke's commendable leadership of the 853 School Coalition, they have helped 853 schools across New York continually educate the State's most vulnerable youth through the pandemic and during the return to school; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Executive Director of Green Chimneys, Dr. Edward W. Placke served with loyalty, honor and distinction, and was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems in his official acts; 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 honor Dr. Edward W. Placke, Ed. D upon the occasion of his retirement after six years of distinguished service to Green Chimneys; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Edward W. Placke, Ed. D.