

Assembly Resolution No. 2075

BY: M. of A. Burdick

CONGRATULATING Gaetono Mitrano, of Harrison, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday on May 1, 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 Gaetono Mitrano, of Harrison, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday on Wednesday, May 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Gaetono "Gate" Mitrano was born to parents, Sebastian and Theresa Mitrano, in Harlem, New York, on May 1, 1924; he was blessed with two brothers, Giacomo and Sebastian, and three sisters, Anne, Michelina, and Gloria; his family moved to Harrison when he was approximately five years old; he graduated from Harrison High School, where he played on the basketball and golf teams, in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Drafted on February 20, 1943, Gaetono Mitrano was a medic for the United States Army 69th Infantry (Fighting 69), Company B, during World War II; he spent 11 weeks in training at Camp Smith, Arkansas, and was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Oahu, Hawaii, for six months; in November of 1943, he fought in the Gilbert Islands during the Battle of Makin after which he returned to Hawaii for six months; and

WHEREAS, While serving his country, Gaetono Mitrano fought in the Battle of Saipan in the Mariana Islands and Iwo Jima, Japan; he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, when the United States released the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, causing the Japanese to surrender; and

WHEREAS, After the Japanese surrendered, Gaetono Mitrano volunteered to assist in the rebuilding of the infrastructure in Osaka and the surrounding communities; Japan announced its surrender on August 15, 1945, and signed its Instrument of Surrender on September 2, 1945; and

WHEREAS, After being stationed in Seattle, Washington, for two weeks, Gaetono Mitrano sailed back to the United States on a banana boat; after two and a half years in the Army, he was honorably discharged at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Gaetono Mitrano's brothers also fought for the freedom of the world; Giacomo ("Jack") served during World War II, and Sebastian

("Junior") died heroically during the Korean War in 1951; a road at Harrison High School is named "Mitrano Place" after Sebastian; and

WHEREAS, On February 20, 1949, Gaetono Mitrano married Lee Didona; the couple were blessed with three children, Dan, Linda, and Lori; the family lived in White Plains, New York, from 1949-1967; and

WHEREAS, Gaetono Mitrano worked as a Postman for Harrison from 1949-1983 when he retired; during the 1950s, he also had a part-time job in construction on Long Island during the post-World War II housing boom; and

WHEREAS, Gaetono Mitrano was predeceased by his wife, Lee; brothers, Giacomo and Sebastian; sisters, Anne and Gloria; and daughter, Linda; and

WHEREAS, Still residing in the home he and Lee had built in 1967 in West Harrison, Gaetono Mitrano is still self-sufficient, driving and living independently; he boasts six grandchildren, Robert, Coby, Kyle, Jesse, Amy, and Sara, and three great-grandchildren, Maddie, Zoey, and Tess; and

WHEREAS, With his zest for life, Gaetono Mitrano 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, As Americans, we honor Gaetono Mitrano, as well as all the individuals who sacrificially served our country, preserving its freedom, given to us by our founding fathers, and the hope that future generations will remember that gift provided by those who gave everything; 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 Gaetono Mitrano upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday on May 1, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gaetono Mitrano.