

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Alexander and Olga Rovt upon the occasion of their designation by the Russian Division of UJA-Federation of New York as the recipients of the Lydia Vareljan Community Award at its Annual Gala on June 7, 2009

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in the Empire State is greatly enriched by the faithful and generous service of those who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their faith, heritage and community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals of such magnanimous conduct and bearing who demonstrate a deep and continuing concern for others, and in so doing, inspire others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend Alexander and Olga Rovt upon the occasion of their designation by the Russian Division of UJA-Federation of New York as the recipients of the Lydia Vareljan Community Award at its 2009 Annual Gala and celebration of the Division's 20th Anniversary, to be held at the St. Regis on Sunday, June 7, 2009; and

WHEREAS, UJA-Federation is an organization of enduring repute and exemplary accomplishment offering comfort and hope to New Yorkers and people around the world; the Russian Division, established in 1989, has raised several million dollars to support three projects in Israel: the Chama Day Care Center in Kiryat Malachi, the Kislin Library in Sha'ar Ha Negev, and the Sedych School in Nazareth Illit, as well as programs here in America to teach English to elderly people studying for citizenship tests, visit nursing homes to read to the elderly, participate in Big Brother/Big Sister programs for orphaned and underprivileged children, and to maintain relationships with families of 9/11 victims; and

WHEREAS, Each year, at its Annual Dinner, the Russian Division of UJA-Federation of New York proudly recognizes those who support its endeavors and work diligently on behalf of those it serves; Alexander and Olga Rovt, ardent supporters of UJA-Federation of New York's Russian Division, truly merit such recognition; and

WHEREAS, Alexander and Olga Rovt grew up in Ukraine; Alex was born in the Transcarpathian region and Olga, from a military family, moved there shortly after birth; they met at Lviv Institute, where he was earning the equivalent of a Master in Business Administration degree and she was studying education, and married in 1974; and

WHEREAS, From 1974-1985, the Rovt family experienced many changes; Alex Rovt began his career in 1978 as Deputy Director of Sales and Marketing for the Republic of Hungary's Ministry of Food and Agriculture; a year later he became Chief of the Wholesale Department, overseeing the government's food supplies and distribution; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, the Rovts immigrated to the United States; their eldest son, Philip, was born in Hungary, and Maxwell, their younger son, was born in the United States when Alex Rovt was Assistant to the President of IBE Trade Corp., a company engaged in the production, sales and marketing of agricultural fertilizers; he eventually became Vice President and then President and owner of the company; and

WHEREAS, Alexander and Olga Rovt are valued members of Flatbush Park Jewish Center, where they attend services with their sons, and are supporters of numerous children's charities; Alex Rovt is President of Zvi Dov Roth Yeshiva Rambam, founded in memory of his grandfather who perished in the Holocaust, and Vice President of Yeshiva of Flatbush,

both in Brooklyn, and has supported tuition scholarship programs for international students who want to study in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Olga Rovt is a Trustee of the Save a Child's Heart Foundation, an Israeli-based humanitarian organization which provides free cardiac surgeries for children with congenital heart problems throughout the world, but primarily in developing nations; and

WHEREAS, Alex Rovt's other philanthropic endeavors include serving as a Trustee of Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, member of the New York City Board of Corrections, and member of the New York State Senate's Small Business Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Alexander and Olga Rovt also support communities in the former Soviet Union; Alex Rovt is a principal benefactor of the Jewish community in Mukachevo, Ukraine, where he was born, and is a devoted supporter of the Jewish Community of Mukachevo in Brooklyn; in addition, in 2007, in memory of his grandparents and other family members who perished in the Holocaust, he made the publication of THE CARPATHIAN DIASPORA, written by Israeli professor Yeshayahu A. Jelinek, possible; and

WHEREAS, Honored on many occasions, Alex Rovt has received the United Hospital Fund's Distinguished Trustee Award and a bronze statue from the Solomon Mykhoels International Art Festival for his work with Jewish communities and public organizations; and

WHEREAS, Alexander and Olga Rovt exemplify the ideals and proud traditions of the Russian Division of UJA-Federation; this Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to extend its highest commendation to Alexander and Olga Rovt, applauding the strength of their commitment and their dedication to those in need among the Jewish community wherever they may be; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Alexander and Olga Rovt upon the occasion of their designation by the Russian Division of UJA-Federation of New York as the recipients of the Lydia Vareljan Community Award at its Annual Gala on June 7, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alexander and Olga Rovt.