

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John Anthony Franco for his commitment to preserving Italian American heritage

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who provide opportunities to celebrate their rich ethnic flavor and who strive to preserve their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John Anthony Franco for his commitment to preserving Italian American heritage to be observed at the Italian-American Day Celebration, in Albany, New York, on Monday, June 4, 2012; and

WHEREAS, John Franco is being inducted into the New York Mets Hall of Fame on June 3, 2012; he regularly makes appearances for the club's community relations, marketing and media relations departments, and can be seen on SNY, the club's television network; and

WHEREAS, John Franco pitched in the major leagues for nearly 22 years (1984-2005) with the Cincinnati Reds, New York Mets and Houston Astros; he received an overall 2.89 ERA in 1,245.2 innings pitched; and

WHEREAS, Placing fourth all-time on the career saves list with 424, John Franco has more saves than any left-handed pitcher in history; he has also made appearances in 1,119 games, which is third on the all-time career list; and

WHEREAS, John Franco saved 30 or more games eight times, including 39 in 1988; he was selected to four All-Star Games in the years 1986, 1987, 1989 and 1990 and also won two Rolands Relief Man Awards in 1988 and 1990; and

WHEREAS, John Franco was named the Mets captain on May 4, 2001, and was honored on the Mets 40th Anniversary All-Amazing Team; a native of Brooklyn, New York, he graduated from Lafayette High School and pitched collegiately at St. John's University throwing two no-hitters as a freshman; and

WHEREAS, John Franco was presented a distinguished service award from the Fire Department of New York for his efforts in assisting the firefighters and their families after the September 11th tragedy; in addition, he has been honored by the Thurman Munson Dinner committee, the Catholic Youth Organization, the New York Baseball Writers Association, St. John's University and the Phi Delta International Fraternity's Lou Gehrig Dinner committee for his work in the community; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Rose, and their children, Nicole, JJ, and Ella, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those individuals who foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John Anthony Franco for his commitment to preserving Italian American heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Anthony Franco.