

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Shimon Waronker upon the occasion of his designation by the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers as the recipient of its Elementary School Principal of the Year Award on March 27, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend illustrious individuals of distinguished purpose whose lives have been committed to the pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Shimon Waronker upon the occasion of his designation by the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools as the recipient of its Elementary School Principal of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Shimon Waronker, Principal of P.S. 770K, will be honored at the organization's 41st Annual Luncheon, to be held at The Renaissance in Brooklyn, New York, on Sunday, March 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, A former United States Army intelligence officer, Shimon Waronker earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, a Bachelor of Religious Studies degree from the Rabbinical College of America, a Master of Science degree from Touro College, and a Master of Education degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he is currently working toward a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree as well; and

WHEREAS, After serving as a middle school teacher for three years, Shimon Waronker graduated with the first cohort of the New York City Leadership Academy and was then named Principal of Jordan L. Mott J.H.S. 22 in the South Bronx, one of New York City's most troubled schools; and

WHEREAS, He was able to help turn the school around using methods including expelling and suspending large numbers of students and adding guidance counselors, a psychologist, social workers, and family workers to the staff; and

WHEREAS, Shimon Waronker, who believes in giving children and teachers room to grow, is now serving as Headmaster of The New American Academy at Lincoln Terrace Park (P.S. 770) in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, where he and his family reside; and

WHEREAS, The concept of The New American Academy, where the teaching methods are modeled after those at the renowned Phillips Exeter Academy, was devised by Shimon Waronker with advice from Harvard's Graduate School of Education and with the cooperation of the teachers' union; and

WHEREAS, Shimon Waronker has been recognized many times for his dedication, commitment and innovation; he was awarded two fellowships, a Cahn Fellowship at Teacher's College, Columbia University and a Presidential Fellowship at Harvard University, and had the unique opportunity of working under New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein for a year; and

WHEREAS, The numerous honors Shimon Waronker has received include, in addition, the Chevalier dans l'Ordre Palmes Academiques, an Order of Chivalry of France given by the Government of France to eminent academics and cultural and educational figures; the Lamplighter Humanitarian Award; and the National Urban Alliance Educational Leadership Award as well as numerous awards from several New York State and New York City public officials; and

WHEREAS, With Shimon Waronker throughout have been his wife Malka, and their six children, Shoshana, Yaakov, Tamar, Tzvia, Devorah Leah, and Baruch David, all of whom are proud to be part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individ-

uals of such accomplishment are brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Shimon Waronker upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers' Elementary School Principal of the Year Award on March 27, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Shimon Waronker.