

**BY:** Senator LANZA

**COMMEMORATING** the 10th Anniversary of the Minty Awards

**WHEREAS,** The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be overestimated; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those illustrious organizations that have brought entertainment and cultural enrichment to the citizens of the great State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Minty Awards, to be celebrated on Sunday, August 8, 2021, at the St. George Theatre and will feature legendary cast reunions and special alumni performances; and

**WHEREAS,** The Minty Awards was created under Minto Entertainment by Michael J. Pinto, Esq. in October of 2010; its first Minty Awards ceremony was held on June 5, 2011, at the Snug Harbor Music Hall, with Msgr. Farrell, St. John Villa, St. Joseph Hill, St. Joseph by-the-Sea, and St. Peter's Boys participating; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2012, the Minty Awards outgrew its home at Snug Harbor and moved to its permanent home, the historic St. George Theatre; and

**WHEREAS,** One year later, in an effort to grow and expand its mission, the Minty Organization for the Performing Arts Inc. was formed to honor the sacrifice and dedication of students in the Dramatic Arts Programs of the Staten Island High Schools; and

**WHEREAS,** This vital organization aims to promote these programs, performers, and all who support them through The Minty Awards, master classes, and other workshops focusing on the Fine Arts; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, the Minty Awards is the preeminent high school theater annual awards ceremony, bringing together Staten Island's aspiring performers for a spectacular celebration of the performing arts; and

**WHEREAS,** With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to its community, over the last ten years, the Minty Organization has donated \$100,000 to local schools' Performing Arts Departments; and

**WHEREAS,** Remaining true to its mission to not only to support the present but also to recognize the future, the Minty Organization hosted its first awards gala in January 2014, where Carl W. Lesch was posthumously honored as the Father of Staten Island High School Theatre;

the organization's Educator of the Arts Award was officially renamed to the Carl W. Lesch Memorial Award for Educator of the Arts; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2015, the Minty Organization expanded its educational program offerings to include audition workshops and master classes to high school students; over the last six years, these programs have been led by Broadway and industry professionals, training local high school students for success in college and beyond; and

**WHEREAS,** Additionally, the Monsignor Joseph C. Ansaldi Memorial Prize was established in 2015 to pay tribute to the organization's late chaplain; the Prize is given annually to high school students who exemplify the mission of the Minty Awards: talent, dedication, and faith; and

**WHEREAS,** The success of the Minty Organization for the Performing Arts is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated members and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

**WHEREAS,** It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor our artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; and as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Minty Awards; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Minty Organization for the Performing Arts.