

BY: Senator SAVINO

HONORING John and Maria Clark upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the New York State Police Benevolent Association on June 3, 2021

WHEREAS, The unity of our State and Nation is built upon the compassion of individuals, such as John and Maria Clark who uphold the values of community life and who, through their great actions, epitomize the best of humanity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John and Maria Clark upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the New York State Police Benevolent Association at its 10th Annual Signal 30 Awards Dinner on June 3, 2021, at Spark's Steak House, New York City; and

WHEREAS, This amazing couple is being recognized in conjunction with the observance of Foster Care Month in the State of New York, for their ceaseless dedication and commitment as foster parents, promoting opportunities and greatly contributing to lifting the quality of life of the children within their care; and

WHEREAS, United in marriage on August 3, 2013, John and Maria Clark continue to show great strength and selflessness, spending countless hours offering their love, support and guidance to the children in their lives, acting as role models and inspiring them to develop to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, Maria, who is a mental health care worker for the Erie County Mental Health Department, and John, who has served as a New York State Trooper for 23 years, share a strong passion for a big family; and

WHEREAS, With a deep family history in adoption, Maria Clark's maternal grandmother aged out of the foster care system, and her father was adopted from Germany; Maria herself was adopted from Colombia, South America, and of her three siblings, one was biological to her adoptive parents, Sean and Annette Greene, and two were adopted from Colombia; furthermore, John Clark grew up in a large family with seven siblings; and

WHEREAS, Foster care and adoption has been a part of the fiber of this wonderful family since they initiated the certification process in February of 2017; by February of 2018, the couple received their first placement, Aurora, who they have since officially adopted, along with Laila, in the Nation's first virtual adoption before the courts in May of 2020; and

WHEREAS, Today, John and Maria Clark are the proud parents of Nathan 25, Braydon 16, Tyler 13, Griffin 9, Laila 4, and Aurora 3; they are also currently fostering little girls, ages two and three; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which John and Maria Clark have displayed throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John and Maria Clark upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the New York State Police Benevolent Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John and Maria Clark.