Senate Resolution No. 2002

BY: Senator MARTINEZ

WELCOMING and paying tribute to David Gill, the Consul General of Germany in New York State, upon the occasion of his visit to the New York State Capitol, Albany, New York, on March 19 and 20, 2024

WHEREAS, The State of New York is greatly enriched by its cultural diversity and proudly shares a multitude of values and friendship, as well as familial ties with the people and country of Germany; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize certain individuals of high standard and professionalism whose singular objective is given to serving the advancement of democracy in the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is pleased to welcome David Gill, the Consul General of Germany in New York State, upon the occasion of his visit to the New York State Capitol, Albany, New York, on March 19 and 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1966 in Shonebeck/Elbe, David Gill was raised by a protestant minister's family in Herrnhut, Saxony, in former East Germany; denied a higher education due to the communist regime's control of his country, he trained and worked as a plumber before joining a preparatory protestant school and later, the theological seminary of the Protestant Church in Berlin-Brandenburg; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, David Gill served as the chairman of Normannenstrasse Citizens' Committee, which oversaw the dissolution of the Ministry of State Security at the Stasi headquarters and also served as the secretary of the Special Committee for the dissolution of the Stasi of the East German Parliament; in 1991, he received the Theodor Heuss Medal, the highest tribute an individual can achieve from the Federal Republic of Germany for services to the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Truly a knowledgeable and wise man, after the reunification, David Gill became the spokesman and head of the research division of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi-Files; furthering his education, he studied law in Berlin at Freie Universitat and then came to the United States to study in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania; in addition, he experienced a remarkable internship with the United States Congress in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his career of serving government, David Gill held positions such as at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information in Berlin, then later, served as the Deputy Representative of the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany to the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union; and

WHEREAS, As a testament to his leadership capabilities and

reliability, David Gill was chosen as State Secretary and Chief of Staff for the German Federal President Joachim Gauck's term from 2012 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, Since 2017, David Gill has diligently served as Consul General of Germany in New York State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is privileged to extend a warm welcome to an extraordinary visitor of such esteemed position and purpose and wishes him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to welcome David Gill, the Consul General of Germany in New York State, upon the occasion of his visit to the New York State Capitol, Albany, New York, on March 19 and 20, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to proclaim David Gill an Honorary Citizen of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to David Gill, the Consul General of Germany in New York State.