

BY: Senator BORRELLO

COMMENDING Johnny Farina upon the occasion of his designation as the 2024 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Johnny Farina upon the occasion of his designation as the 2024 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; and

WHEREAS, Part of the rock band Santo & Johnny, Johnny Farina has been touring Europe, the United States, Mexico, and Australia for over 50 years; the duo has recorded and released 35 albums and 50 singles in their career; and

WHEREAS, Covered by more than 200 artists and featured in movies, TV programs and series, and commercials, Santo & Johnny earned a Gold Record for their song "Sleep Walk" in 1959; the composition has been recently credited with over four million BMI certified airplays since its release; "Sleep Walk" was recognized again in 1999 with a Grammy Award for the Best Pop Instrumental Performance, as recorded the year before by The Brian Setzer Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Seeing great success, Santo & Johnny had a TV show in Italy; they were also inducted into the Italian Music Hall of Fame for their instrumental version of "The Godfather Theme," which remained at the top of the Italian music charts for 26 weeks in 1973 and also earned a Gold Record; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Santo & Johnny were inducted into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame in St. Louis, to recognize their outstanding work on the unique instrument over the years; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Farina has been recognized for his work as a solo artist by publications such as **The Daily News**; and

WHEREAS, As a testament to his artistic ability, Johnny Farina was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011 for his work on "Sleep Walk" and to acknowledge the song's repeated use in full length feature films at the Long Island Film Festival; 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 commend Johnny Farina upon the occasion of his designation as the 2024 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Johnny Farina.