Assembly Resolution No. 96

**BY:** M. of A. Simpson

**HONORING** Dr. John Rugge upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the J. Walter Juckett Community Service Award by the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce on March 10, 2023

**WHEREAS,** It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

**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,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. John Rugge upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the J. Walter Juckett Community Service Award by the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce to be celebrated at its 34th Annual Dinner on Friday, March 10, 2023, at the Sagamore Resort in Bolton Landing, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The J. Walter Juckett Award, named in honor of the longtime chairman of the Sandy Hill Corporation, was created 34 years ago to recognize and honor a deserving member of the community who has selflessly gone above and beyond by contributing time and energy to help others; Dr. John Rugge is one such individual; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded in 1914, the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce (ARCC) is a 100 percent membership funded organization representing businesses in New York State's Washington, Warren, Essex and Northern Saratoga Counties with a mission to serve its members and business community through advocacy efforts, education opportunities and the power of connection and collaboration; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1974, family physician Dr. John Rugge decided to take some time off from his busy life to finish writing a book about canoeing in the beautifully inspiring Adirondack Mountains; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. John Rugge then accepted a position with the Glens Falls Hospital to serve as supervising physician at a brand-new health center in Chestertown, New York, with the intention of practicing for six months before returning to Albany Medical Center; and

**WHEREAS,** As it turned out, the call of the mountains and the people of the region who needed him the most inspired him to stay, and Dr. John Rugge continued his work of making the area a better place for its residents to live, work and play; he fulfilled this commitment by establishing the Hudson Headwaters Health Network which has grown to include 21 health centers between Saratoga County to the Canadian border with some 200 medical providers and more than 150,000 patients; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. John Rugge furthered his aspirations to make a difference by serving on 40 government advisory panels, task forces, and councils, all of which has made Hudson Headwaters a model for others across the State of New York and the Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, Dr. John Rugge served as a senior policy advisor to government, development of managed care organizations, and organizer of innovative models of care for the Adirondack North Country Region; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. John Rugge has truly given tirelessly of himself to the Adirondack Region as a volunteer, never expecting anything in return except for the satisfaction it brings him to help others; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. John Rugge upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the J. Walter Juckett Community Service Award by the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. John Rugge.