

**BY:** Senator MATTERA

**COMMENDING** Maria Milito upon the occasion of her designation as the 2025 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 acknowledges 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 Maria Milito upon the occasion of her designation as the 2025 Italian American of the Year by the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; and

**WHEREAS,** A native New Yorker, Maria Milito loves all things rock and has been a presence on the airwaves for more than 25 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Maria Milito is the host of "Maria's Mutts & Stuff," a podcast where guests chat about animal rescue, animal welfare, nature, and the environment; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2011, Maria Milito published "Clarice and Friends—How They Helped Mend the Hole in My Heart," a collection of emails from her listeners when her beloved dog, Clarice, passed away; a revised edition was published in 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** An avid animal advocate, Maria Milito spends time at animal functions and charity events; and

**WHEREAS,** Maria Milito lives with her rescue dog, a black lab mix named Fredo; and

**WHEREAS,** Animal advocates, such as Maria Milito, deserve honor and recognition for their tireless efforts to improve the lives and well-being of animals, large and small; it is imperative that innocent creatures are treated with the care and respect they deserve; 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 Maria Milito upon the occasion of her designation as the 2025 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 Maria Milito.