Senate Resolution No. 1692

**BY:** Senator MARTINS

**HONORING** the Alper Family upon the occasion of their designation as the 2026 Citizen of the Year by the Community Chest of Port Washington

**WHEREAS,** Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are assets beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Alper Family upon the occasion of their designation as the 2026 Citizen of the Year by the Community Chest of Port Washington, to be celebrated at a ceremony on Monday, March 23, 2026, at the Port Washington Public Library in Port Washington, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Annually, since 1969, the Community Chest of Port Washington has chosen an extraordinary resident, residents, or organization as its Citizen of the Year; this award honors a lifetime of outstanding volunteer service to the Port Washington, New York, community; and

**WHEREAS,** For more than 115 years, the Alper Family has exemplified integrity, hard work, and community commitment in Port Washington, and all four generations of the Alper Family have contributed to the long-lasting legacy of their family; and

**WHEREAS,** Sam and Mary Alper were the first generation of Alpers to make Port Washington their home, having immigrated from Prussia before 1911; shortly after immigrating, they opened Alper's Jeweler and Watch Repair, which would later evolve to specialize in auto parts in the 1930s, then hardware during World War II, and is now known as Alper's Hardware and Paint; and

**WHEREAS,** Sam and Mary Alper's sons, Dave and Morris Alper, were raised in their parents store and quickly became active community leaders; Morris died at a young age, and Dave made the ultimate commitment to serve his country during World War II; and

**WHEREAS,** While serving in the Pacific, Dave Alper wrote a letter promising to "build up" Port Washington upon his return, and together, he and his wife, Fay Seligson, committed to continuing the legacy their parents began; together, they co-founded the Temple Beth Israel, the local chapter of Hadassah, and took leadership roles in the town's professional organizations in addition to helping at the family business; and

**WHEREAS,** David and Fay Alper raised three beloved children and the third generation of Alpers, Marvin, Doris, and Sheryl; Doris Alper and her husband, Mark Novick, have taken ownership of Alper's Hardware and continue fulfilling their grandparent's commitment to serve the Port Washington community; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to operating Alper's Hardware, Doris Alper volunteers at the Landmark on Main Street, the Port Washington Children's Center, the Organization Rehabilitation and Training, Hadassah, and Habitat for Humanity; Mark Novick's extensive history of civic involvement includes service with the Port Washington Lions Club, the Port Counseling Center, and the Community Chest of Port Washington; and

**WHEREAS,** Adam Novick, son of Doris and Mark Novick, and Brian Fogel, husband of Doris and Mark's daughter, Rachel, are the fourth generation of Alpers working at Alper's Hardware; both individuals remain committed to furthering the Alper's historic legacy, and they have participated in The Little Free Library Program, Plant a Row for the Hungry, and Emergency Food Support; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to all the great work done by the individual Alpers throughout the past 115 years, the family has provided significant support to the Schreiber High School's Gambol, the Helen Keller Center, the Community Action Council, and countless school sports, clubs, organizations, and fundraisers; and

**WHEREAS,** Alper's Hardware has fostered economic vitality through its membership in the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce and the Port Washington Business Improvement District; in recognition of its long-standing success, the corner of Irma Avenue and Main Street in Port Washington was named "Alper's Corner" by the Town of North Hempstead; and

**WHEREAS,** From Sam and Mary Alper's arrival over a century ago to Adam and Brian's leadership today, the Alper family has become known as an enduring neighborhood institution, known for their expertise, problem-solving, warmth, and long-term relationships; they have been a staple in the Port Washington community for decades, and they will continue to remain strong for years to come; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which the Alper Family have displayed throughout the past century; and

**WHEREAS,** It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records this tribute to the Alper Family; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Alper Family upon the occasion of their designation as the 2026 Citizen of the Year by the Community Chest of Port Washington; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Alper Family.