Senate Resolution No. 2056

BY: Senator MATTERA

HONORING John R. Durso upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators on May 18, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to individuals of distinguished purpose whose lifework and civic engagement have profoundly contributed to the advancement of cultural heritage and the enrichment of society; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John R. Durso upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators on Monday, May 18, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Since 1999. John Durso has served as President of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, a labor union that represents more than 13,000 working men and women across New York State and parts of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, since 2005, John Durso has served as President of the Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, the fourth largest central labor council in the United States, representing 250,000 union members in Nassau and Suffolk Counties; and

WHEREAS, John Durso also serves as International Vice President of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Vice President of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union (RWDSU), a Council within the UFCW, and Vice President of the New York City Central Labor Council; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, John Durso holds positions on the Town of Hempstead Labor Advisory Board and the Nassau County Living Wage Advisory Board and serves on the Governor's Long Island Regional Economic Development Council and Governor's "New" New York Advisory panel; and

WHEREAS, John Durso is a lifetime member of the New York branch of the NAACP, board member of the Long Island Association, Board Chair of the EAC Network, and board member of the Nassau Community College Foundation and the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees; also, he has served as Chair of the Board of the United Way of Long Island two times; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, John Durso serves on the advisory boards of various organizations, including the ENERGEIA Partnership, the Cornell Industrial Labor Relations School, the Long Island Community Development Corporation, and John Thiessen Children's Foundation; and

WHEREAS, For just a few of his many accomplishments, John Durso is a

recipient of Networking Magazine's David Award and is a member of the LIBN/Hofstra University Long Island Hall of Fame; he was also awarded the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic

Coalition of Organizations, an international organization that celebrates the diversity, achievements, and progress of all ethnic backgrounds and promotes tolerance and cultural awareness; and

WHEREAS, John Durso believes that his greatest accomplishments are his four grown children, John, Jr., Michael, Jessica, and Jim; he is also a proud grandfather of seven whom he shares with his wife, Peggy, who was herself a 27-year member of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW; and

WHEREAS, John Durso's enduring legacy is one of intellectual rigor, public service, cultural preservation, and an unyielding commitment to community empowerment and the Italian-American experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John R. Durso upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators on May 18, 2026, and to commend him for his unparalleled contributions to education and Italian-American culture; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John R. Durso.