Senate Resolution No. 2202

**BY:** Senator RHOADS

**HONORING** Michael Verbanac upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State Citizenship Award

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor the young adults of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Michael Verbanac upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State Citizenship Award; he will be recognized at a Senior Awards Night event on Thursday, May 28, 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** The New York State Citizenship Award recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in academics, community service, and extracurricular involvement; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Verbanac, a senior at Bethpage High School, has proven himself to be an intelligent and driven student leader; and

**WHEREAS,** Academically, Michael Verbanac is a dedicated and hardworking student with a 104.51 weighted GPA which he earned while taking the most rigorous AP and Honors coursework offered; he has been a member of the National Honor Society and National Science Honor Society; and

**WHEREAS,** Additionally, Michael Verbanac has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction and a candidate for the New York State Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish; and

**WHEREAS,** Athletically, Michael Verbanac has been a dedicated member of the varsity soccer team since June 2024, balancing daily practices and multiple games per week; and

**WHEREAS,** Additionally, Michael Verbanac started working as a part-time busser at Me and You in August 2024; he provides high-quality guest service in a fast-paced restaurant environment; and

**WHEREAS,** Outside of school activities, Michael Verbanac has acted as Outreach Ambassador for Breakthrough Type 1 Diabetes Organization since September 2022; using his personal experience with diabetes, he demonstrates leadership and service by mentoring children, guiding parents, and sharing experiences to strengthen the diabetes community; and

**WHEREAS,** Actively involved in his community, Michael Verbanac has served as a Red Cross member since September 2024; he has participated in beach cleanups and local wildlife conservation initiatives to protect

marine ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS,** The impactful leadership and unwavering drive which Michael Verbanac has continually displayed have earned his recognition; he is skilled in communication, teamwork, and resilience and carries a strong history of academic achievement, service, and personal growth; and

**WHEREAS,** As Michael Verbanac looks forward to his next chapter, he is sure to continue fostering his leadership skills, advancing his academic achievements, and making a meaningful difference in his community; and

**WHEREAS,** Poised with a great sense of enthusiasm and purpose, this scholar now stands honorably with just pride in his accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by his teachers, mentors, and parents; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Michael Verbanac upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State Citizenship Award; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Michael Verbanac.