

Queens Civic Congress Proclamation Recognizing Outstanding Civic Service

Whereas: **Bernard Aquilino** was born - most appropriately - on Thanksgiving Day, November 29th, a few years ago, in the Bronx; and

Whereas: **Barney** met his wife, Elsie, at a VJ Day Block Party in the Bronx and they married in 1948; and

Whereas: That same year, **Barney** became a business owner as a Service Technician for the Brewery Industry, a business he still owns today; and

Whereas: **Barney** showed his “cool side” also having worked as a percussionist in a band; and

Whereas: **Barney** and Elsie have two children, daughter Christine - a psychotherapist - who is married and lives in Massachusetts, and son Steven - a professor of Prosthodontics at the University of Iowa and Head of the National Board of Prosthodontics - who is married and lives in Iowa, and their granddaughter (via Steven) is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of California, Davis; and

Whereas: **Barney** and his family moved to Bellerose Manor in 1953; and

Whereas: **Barney** has worked with the Rocky Hill Civic Association since the early 1970s, he joined its Board and then became Board Chairman and since June of 1981 he served as its President; and

Whereas: **Barney's** accomplishments over the years include keeping PS 18 open, working diligently with local legislators to have a badly planned, unsupervised men's shelter removed from the community and having it replaced with Rose House, waging an effective campaign to have the area called Bellerose Manor, successfully fighting an ill-conceived effort to place a sanitation garage on Union Turnpike and suggesting its present location as an alternative, writing 25 years worth of civic bulletins providing important information to the community and oversee their distribution to all members, lobbying for traffic signs and traffic lights when needed, writing letters to have potholes filled and streets paved, organizing cleanups--and personally performing countless cleanups, and working with local public officials and law enforcement agencies to make sure the neighborhood stayed safe; and

Whereas: **Barney** helped sustain and run the PS 18 Afterschool Program which served many youths in the community, including some who later became active in civic affairs; and

Whereas: **Barney** has worked with and supported other community organizations and youth groups, often serving on their boards, including Rose House and The Beacon Program at MS 172, and committees including as a member and later as chair of the Queens Civic Congress Special Committee on Creedmoor; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Queens Civic Congress recognizes the outstanding and selfless contributions of Bernard Aquilino to his community, our borough and the City.

DATED: 13 December 2005