

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, *That at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 9th day of September, 2021 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

Honoring Tony and Bernadette Misita as Citizens of the Month for September 2021

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Erie County Legislature to honor and pay tribute to individuals that enrich their community and go above and beyond to make this county a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita had a son they were very proud of, Randy was a full-time student at the University of Buffalo, had a full-time position at UPS, and had recently been promoted to a managerial position; and

WHEREAS, the 21-year-old Randy had a great future ahead of him, he was a senior about to obtain his engineering degree, a girlfriend, and several friends from high school, and was a member of Delta Chi fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Randy had no signs of depression and didn't talk about his feelings before ending his life in October 1987; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita's loss of their son was an unimaginable tragedy for them and their daughter Angela Hanlon, the grief stayed with the family longer because they lost their future as well; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita tragedy and grief remain with them to this day, but they have found a way to honor their son and help prevent others dealing with suicide; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita lead the local chapter of Bereaved Parents USA where they lead a support group of individuals who have lost a child and provide hope, healing, and comfort to others; and

WHEREAS, Bereaved Parents USA provides a safe place where grieving families can connect, share their stories, and learn to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita publish a quarterly newsletter and host an annual memorial event that honors the children who have passed away and provide comfort, and a support network for the victim's family; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita participate in the RAP (Resources Adolescent Problems) program in Niagara County where they speak at local high schools, tell their story, and encourage students to get help and talk to someone if they are in need, and the Misita's also volunteer with Crisis Services of Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita are faith-based individuals who are active members of the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church on the West Side of Buffalo where they find peace and comfort through their times of need; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita have maintained friendships with Randy's fraternity brothers and high school friends to this day and always know when someone has visited Randy's grave when a beer bottle is left in tribute, and know so many were affected by his passing; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita call suicide 'death by emotional pain' and a buried illness; and

WHEREAS, Tony and Bernadette Misita's beauty from ashes story are the friendships they have with Randy's friends and their passion to help others faced with tragedy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor **Tony and Bernadette Misita** as the Erie County Legislature's "Citizens of the Month" for September 2021 for their exceptional dedication and unselfish service to helping others in our community who are faced with the tragic loss of a loved one, and thank them for being outstanding citizens of Erie County.

Hon. Frank J. Todaro
Erie County Legislator, 8th District