

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF ROCCO  
SACRAMONE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 27, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rocco Sacramone, Chef and owner and of Trattoria L'Incontro and restaurateur, for his achievements and outstanding devotion to the betterment of the Queens community.

Since its opening in 1999, Trattoria L'Incontro has been a staple of the Astoria community. Under the direction of Chef Sacramone and Jack Brucculeri, Trattoria L'Incontro quickly became a "must place" to dine. In 2005 the restaurant was rated as one of the top two Italian restaurants in New York by Zagat, providing the highest level of quality and service in a unique setting that reflects Mr. Sacramone's hometown in Italy.

Despite his tremendous successes, Mr. Sacramone came from humble beginnings. Born in Orsogna, a small town in Abruzzo, Italy, Mr. Sacramone came to the United States with his family in 1970. At the age of 14, Mr. Sacramone began his work in restaurants as a dishwasher in a popular Italian restaurant in Queens. Working long hours in the kitchen, he rose through the ranks and quickly became manager at Nino's Restaurant in Greenwich Village, where he learned the front of house aspect of the restaurant business.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sacramone has received numerous accolades from the New York Times, Newsday and Timeout. Mr. Sacramone attributes much of his success to his team and loving family, especially his mother Tina who worked alongside him in the kitchen and taught him his respect and love for the art of cooking.

Mr. Sacramone continues to be a pillar of his community by devoting his time and support to many local organizations, including Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, United Civic Community Association, SHAREing and CAREing and L.I.C./Astoria Kiwanis Club. Mr. Sacramone also plans to travel to Italy to help the victims of the recent earthquake. Additionally, his generous, unending support and charity to the Holy Name Society of St. Francis of Assisi Church makes the "Taste of Italy" Scholarship fundraiser a tremendous success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Sacramone for his tremendous achievements and continued generosity, dedication and support to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JONATHAN  
DARCHE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 27, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jonathan Darche for his undying devotion to improving the lives of New Yorkers through public service. Because of the dedication that Mr. Darche has shown to his community in Astoria, he is being honored at Taminent Regular Democratic Club's 85th Annual Dinner Dance with the Taminent Political Activism Award.

Mr. Darche, a life-long resident of Queens, graduated from Empire State College and received his law degree from the City University of New York School of Law. Mr. Darche began his career in public service working for Senator CHARLES E. SCHUMER. After graduating from law school, he continued his commitment to the people of Queens as an Assistant District Attorney at the Queens County District Attorney's Office, where he met his wife, Samantha Darche, Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas.

Mr. Darche's contributions to his community have by no means gone unnoticed. He has received numerous rewards for his dedicated public service, including the Narcotics Investigation Bureau Commendation and the New York State Bar Association Citation for Achievement in Public Service.

In November 2014, Mr. Darche was promoted to Chief Prosecutor of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board after his time spent serving as the Deputy Chief Prosecutor and the Acting Chief of Investigations at the agency.

Mr. Darche's dedication to service extends past his career. He is incredibly active in his Astoria community. Mr. Darche's many roles include Corresponding Secretary for the Queens County Brandeis Association, member of the Taminent Regular Democratic Club, member of the Astoria Center of Israel and member of the United Community Civic Association. Mr. Darche lives in Astoria with his wife and their two-year-old son, Moses.

Mr. Darche has demonstrated tireless dedication to his community throughout his entire career. As both a hardworking attorney and community servant, Jonathan Darche consistently devotes his time and effort to improving the lives of those around him, with much success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible accomplishments and contributions of Jonathan Darche, a man who has undeniably made his community a better place.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL  
SERAO

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 27, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Michael Sero, an experienced philanthropist and cultural activist who has dedicated many years to serving his community in Queens, New York. Mr. Sero is being honored at Taminent Regular Democratic Club's 85th Annual Dinner Dance with the Ralph DeMarco Award.

After serving for six years at Commerce Bank in Astoria and three years as Vice President of JP Morgan Chase Bank in Astoria, Mr. Sero is now the Regional Manager and Vice President of Quontic Bank.

As grandson of Edward Sero from Bogan and Sons Furniture, a Steinway Street store that was a fixture in Astoria for decades, Mr. Sero is following in his grandfather's footsteps in giving back to his community. Michael Sero, a third-generation Italian-American, truly defines the meaning of community service.

Mr. Sero is the Board Director for the Astoria LIC Kiwanis, Chairman of the Advisory Board of SHAREing and CAREing, former Advisory Board member to Immaculate Conception school, past President of the Ditmars Merchants Association, Chair for the Astoria Park Relay for Life, Charter member and President of the Lions Club, Treasurer of the William Jefferson Clinton Democratic Club, a former Board Director for the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens, Board Director of QSAC and an active former Board member of Community Board 1. He is also the Vice President of the Astoria Civic Association which is led by former City Council Speaker Peter F. Vallone.

Mr. Sero's philanthropy work includes working with children with autism and senior citizens with disabilities. He has also worked actively in the LGBT community as a former member of OUT Astoria and former President of the Western Queens LGBT Democratic Club.

Some of Mr. Sero's past honors include HX Magazine Businessman of the Year, Business Leadership Award from the Powhattan Democratic Club, Man of the Year from the LIC KOC, Business Leadership Award from the Borough President and numerous City Council and state recognitions. He currently resides in Hewlett Harbor with his partner, Dr. Fidel Abreu.

Community involvement is the foundation of a successful city, and Mr. Sero exemplifies commitment to his community through his years of active service to local groups, organizations and elected officials. It is a privilege for me to represent a district with dedicated citizens, like Michael Sero, who work constantly to improve our city. Michael Sero consistently devotes his time and effort to improving the lives of those around him, with great success.

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