



PROCLAMATION HONORING CLAUDIO CAPONIGRO

WHEREAS, Claudio Caponigro, fondly known as Claudio the Barber, loyally served the community of East Harlem as a barber for over sixty years;

WHEREAS, Claudio Barber Shop on 116th Street in East Harlem was a neighborhood touchstone. Home to pistachio green chairs, a vintage barber's pole and Jeris Barber Tonic, Claudio Barber Shop was a place to get a quality hair cut at the incredibly low price of \$10; and

WHEREAS, Claudio Barber Shop famously served as the backdrop for a Jennifer Lopez music video and a Sports Illustrated photoshoot. Claudio was most known in the East Harlem community for his loyalty, friendship, and respect. The rule at the shop was customers were free to talk about anything other than religion; and

WHEREAS, Claudio's commitment to his customers was so great that he did not install a telephone in his barber shop until 2012 because doing so, he felt, would detract from the attention he could pay to his customers. At Claudio's Barber Shop, customers were seen in the order in which they arrived. Claudio did not take appointments; and

WHEREAS, Claudio served as the neighborhood's informal historian and, through casual conversations while cutting hair, he proudly schooled his customers and residents on all the Italian leaders from the past, most notably Mayor Fiorello La Guardia; and


WHEREAS, Claudio Caponigro's Barber Shop was an institution for generations of families in East Harlem, including my own family. The Barber Shop was the hub of the neighborhood and if you wanted to know what was going on in the community, both good and bad, it was the place to be. Claudio and his Barber Shop will forever be remembered for his compassion, his advice and his welcoming presence to anyone who walked in the door. For Claudio, we were all family. I thank him for his decades of serving his community.

WHEREAS, Claudio Caponigro is hereby awarded this Proclamation for his outstanding contributions to his community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Robert J. Rodriguez, Secretary of State, pause in my deliberations to hereby celebrate and honor Claudio Caponigro for his impact on the people of East Harlem and beyond. Claudio demonstrated leadership in ways big and small, and brought pride to his community. Accordingly, it is my pleasure to tender this Proclamation with gratitude and respect.



Given under my hand and the official seal
of the Department of State this 20th day
of October, in the year 2022.


Robert J. Rodriguez
Secretary of State