

*BY ALD. WITKOWSKI*

*Resolution congratulating Tom Balistreri for receiving the WisItalia 2015 President's Award.*

**WHEREAS,**

**TOM BALISTRERI**

*was awarded the WisItalia 2015 President's Award on April 18, 2015; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Tom Balistreri was honored in recognition of his significant contributions to advance the Italian language in Milwaukee; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Tom Balistreri helped establish the Italian Immersion Program in the Milwaukee Public Schools, is a founding member of WisItalia, and has initiated Italian programs in the City of Milwaukee and around the United States; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Tom Balistreri has been a leader in the Milwaukee community through his involvement in many organizations such as being an original board member of WisItalia, Chapter President of UNICO for two terms, member of Sons of Italy, Pompeii Men's Club, Italian Community Center Board, Society of San Giuseppe, St. Rita's Church, and a volunteer at Festa Italiana every year since inception; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Tom Balistreri has many accomplishments, as a proud American of Italian heritage, including being a veteran of the Vietnam War, speaks English, Italian, Spanish, German, and French, established Italian language classes at Rufus King High School in 2000, established Italian Immersion School in 2006, and served as School Board Director for MPS, principal at Rufus King High School, principal at Bay View High School and as an assistant principal at several secondary schools; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Tom Balistreri has received numerous awards and recognitions including Principal of the Year-1995-96, was featured in a Newsweek article for having one of America's Top Schools, a feature on ABC's Dateline in 2009, and the National Blue Ribbon School Award; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Tom Balistreri on being honored with the WisItalia 2015 President's Award, recognizes him for his dedication to the Italian language and wishes for him continued health and happiness; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Tom Balistreri.*

**Introduced by Common Council member Terry L. Witkowski and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on April 21, 2015.**

