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**Local High School Student Selected for Scholarship Award,
Heads to “The Harvard of the Sky”
*Award Presentation Made by Civic Leaders and Members of Family
Who Founded Scholarship Fund to Support Deserving Local Students***

June 21, 2012, Yonkers, NY— High school students across the globe are donning caps and gowns this month to receive their well-deserved diplomas. Many of them, having recently survived the college admissions process, are looking ahead with great excitement to continuing their education and pursuing bachelor degrees. Students today are acutely aware of the cost of higher education, taking out multiple loans to pay tuition and working part-time jobs to help pay for books and transportation. Today, a local high school student received some help in figuring out how he'll fund his higher education goals.

The Thursday, July 21, 2012 agenda for the general membership meeting of the Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association (“LPTA”) was a special one. The organization named **Daniel Marte**, a 2012 Lincoln High School graduate, as the recipient of the group’s annual education scholarship. The presentation was made at 7:30pm at the Lincoln Park Jewish Center located at 311 Central Park Avenue in Yonkers.

Richard Brand, President of LPTA and **Kevin Gorman**, Chairman of LPTA’s Education Committee, were joined by **Clare Rooney Galterio** and **John Rooney** of Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway (“Empire City Casino”) to present the \$500 scholarship. **Daniel Marte** was accompanied by his proud parents, **Enmanuel Marte** and **Ana Henriquez-Marte**.

The scholarship is part of a fund that was created by the Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association utilizing a contribution made by **Timothy J. Rooney**, President of Empire City Casino, in 1988. At the time of the donation, Mr. Rooney directed the LPTA to use the funds to support a needy and/or deserving graduating student in the local community to further their education. In 2011, Mr. Rooney made a substantial donation to replenish the scholarship fund, ensuring that it will continue for the next decade.

LPTA works closely with the Lincoln High School administration to identify a deserving student who might otherwise not receive scholarship funding. **Daniel Marte** was highly recommended for the award by his teachers and the staff at Lincoln High School who describe him as being “a deserving student worthy of recognition”. Marte’s drive and determination to excel have gained him acceptance to the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida, which has been described by *Time Magazine* as “The Harvard of the Sky”. He has gladly accepted this opportunity and will enter the program in the fall to study aeronautical engineering and business.

“We are pleased that the contribution is going to such a wonderful student who truly deserves recognition. I commend not only Daniel Marte for his accomplishments but also the Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association for their continued commitment to the community,” said **John Rooney** of Empire City Casino. “We are very excited that the Association has been able to continue these scholarships throughout difficult financial times. It is important that they have the resources to continue this worthwhile endeavor. It has been our distinct honor to provide them with the funds to do so.”

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Page 2 of 2

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"I would like to thank the Rooney Family for their generosity and continued support of the Lincoln Park community. These funds will help worthy students for many years to come," said **Richard Brand**, President of the Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association. "In recognition of his continued support, it is our pleasure to announce that this scholarship fund will now be named "Timothy J. Rooney Distinguished Graduate Award".

"The families and members of the LPTA are pleased and happy to have been accorded an opportunity to help deserving young persons further their education. We thank the Rooney Family and Yonkers Raceway for their support," said **Kevin Gorman**, Education Committee Chairman for LPTA.

Over the years, several scholarships have been awarded by LPTA to Yonkers students since the creation of the fund, including \$3,000 directed toward children of 9/11 responders. One such donation went to the son of a young single mother, Yamil Merino, an EMT worker employed with MetroCare Ambulance, who perished on 9/11 because she refused to evacuate the lobby of the North Tower in order to continue treating injured victims. Additional funds went into a trust fund for two children of a NYFD Firefighter, Timothy Welty, who also perished in the 9/11 tragedy as a hero.

Galterio & Rooney also took the time to provide LPTA members with details on the expansion at Empire City Casino and answered questions regarding the possible changes to the state constitution that would allow up to seven full-gaming casino licenses in the state.

"Empire City Casino continues to invest in Yonkers. As the city's largest private employer, we understand the need for economic development and are committed to making the investments necessary to ensure viability and growth. " said **John Rooney**.

About Lincoln Taxpayers Association: Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association is a legal 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization created in 1952 that represents the interests of residents and taxpayers in the section of Yonkers bound by Yonkers Avenue, Van Cortlandt Park, the New York State Thruway (Interstate 87) and the Saw Mill River Parkway.

About Empire City Casino: Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway features: more than 5,300 slot machines, electronic roulette, craps and baccarat, dining in the Empire Terrace Restaurant, which overlooks the track for live harness racing, and Nonno's Trattoria for Italian cuisine, as well as a quick bite at the International Food Court and its wide-ranging menu. The multi-faceted Good Time Room is available for parties, benefits, weddings, and major events for up to 400. Live entertainment, from karaoke to comedy, is offered six nights a week. Empire City Casino is located at 810 Yonkers Avenue (at Central Avenue) in Yonkers, New York, Westchester County, (I-87 to Exit 2). Empire City Casino is open seven days a week from 9:00 AM to 4:00 AM. For more information call 914.968.4200 or log on to www.empirecitygaming.com.

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