

2011-J2853

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Ruth Schwartzwalder upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Ruth "Reggie" Schwartzwalder upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; in recognition of this auspicious occasion, Reggie will be honored at a party hosted by her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Reggie Schwartzwalder was born Ruth Simpson to James and Mary Louise Simpson on January 18, 1912, in Pine Grove, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The Simpson family moved to Morgantown, West Virginia, where Reggie grew up with her five siblings, James, Bill, Louise, Marie and Marge, until she graduated from high school; and

WHEREAS, She continued her education and enrolled in West Virginia University where she majored in Physical Education; it was here Reggie met her husband, the late Floyd B. "Ben" Schwartzwalder, who was also a Physical Education major and a center on the West Virginia football team; and

WHEREAS, Soon after graduating in 1932, Reggie and Ben Schwartzwalder were married; and

WHEREAS, Reggie Schwartzwalder taught and lived in different towns throughout West Virginia, while her husband Ben coached high school football; and

WHEREAS, After enlisting in the United States Army in 1941, honorably serving during World War II, Ben Schwartzwalder returned home and began coaching college football; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, the couple moved to Syracuse, New York, and Ben Schwartzwalder began his long and distinguished coaching career with the football team at Syracuse University; and

WHEREAS, Throughout Ben's nearly 25-year tenure as a legendary Syracuse University football coach, Reggie was truly his major supporter, helping to run the daily operations of life and to raise the couple's two wonderful daughters, Susan Walker and Mary Scofield; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Besides raising an outstanding family, Reggie Schwartzwalder was also very active in both community activities and charitable organizations, positively impacting the many lives she touched; and

WHEREAS, Reggie Schwartzwalder is described by her family and friends as a very optimistic individual, one who has taught her five grandchildren and her eight great-grandchildren the importance of kindness, generosity and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Reggie and Ben Schwartzwalder were featured in the movie, "The Express," which was based on Syracuse University football great Ernie Davis, the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy; and

WHEREAS, Reggie Schwartzwalder dressed as an extra for "The Express" and attended the movie's world premiere, which was held at Syracuse's Landmark Theater in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Reggie Schwartzwalder has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; she credits her longevity to her strong love of life and family, healthy habits and exercise, and actively cheering on Syracuse University sports teams; and

WHEREAS, This beloved woman has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to publicly recog-

nize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Ruth Schwartzwalder upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ruth "Reggie" Schwartzwalder.