

## 2013-J632

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Debra Kolsrud of Johnstown, New York, for her skillfully worded theme to be used in conjunction with the celebration of the 2013 National Women's History Month

WHEREAS, In the course of the evolving development of this Empire State, when the ingredients of shared concern and responsive endeavor combine in commitment to community, there emerge among the distinguished citizenry of the State of New York, certain individuals who warrant special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Debra Kolsrud of Johnstown, New York, for her skillfully worded theme to be used in conjunction with the celebration of the 2013 National Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, March is National Women's History Month, and Friday, March 8, 2013, is International Women's Day; and

WHEREAS, Each year New York State officially sets aside time to recognize the unique contributions women have made to New York and its society and is particularly pleased to recognize The National Women's History Project and Debra Kolsrud for producing its theme; and

WHEREAS, The theme for National Women's History Month 2013 is: Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); and

WHEREAS, Debra Kolsrud is one of three original incorporators for the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association (ECSHA) of Johnstown, New York; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 2008, this vital organization educates and promotes Elizabeth Cady Stanton's legacy of advocating equal rights for women of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Debra Kolsrud served as ECSHA's first Chairwoman from 2009 to 2011; she spent her career as an educator and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Fulton-Montgomery Community College teaching courses in the English department; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2008, Debra Kolsrud moved from California to Johnstown, New York, after purchasing the historic Colonial-style home, built in 1798, known locally as Mrs. Henry's Boarding House; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henry's Boarding House is where Susan B. Anthony lived while she and Johnstown native, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, were writing the third volume of the HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE in 1884; and

WHEREAS, Both women worked in the home writing that volume, with Susan B. Anthony living at the boarding house, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton residing nearby at her sister's home; and

WHEREAS, Today, it is the only property in Johnstown, New York, with a direct link to both of these remarkable women; with a large plaque out front which describes the significance of the residence, this Colonial house remains a private residence which Debra Kolsrud is in the process of restoring; and

WHEREAS, In addition to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, both of whom led the campaign for women's suffrage, New York State has been the home of many extraordinary women who have led society to a better future: Sojourner Truth spoke out for the abolition of slavery and for suffrage for women; suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt became the first president of the League of Women Voters; Emma Willard opened the first endowed institution for the education of women; Civil War surgeon Dr. Mary E. Walker was the only woman ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor; Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist who led slaves to freedom by way of the Underground Railroad; in the 19th Century, Eliza-

beth Blackwell and Belva Lockwood were the first women in the fields of medicine and law; pioneer birth control educator and advocate Margaret Sanger established a research center in New York City; Emma Goldman

founded the Free Speech League which led to the American Civil Liberties Union; humanitarian Eleanor Roosevelt served as United States Delegate to the United Nations; civil rights lawyer and New York State Senator Constance Baker Motley became the first black woman to sit on the U.S. District Court in New York, and so many more known and unknown women who championed rights and opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Debra Kolsrud of Johnstown, New York, for her skillfully worded theme to be used in conjunction with the celebration of the 2013 National Women's History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Debra Kolsrud.