

2013-J2943

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Helen Ellett 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, Born on February 16, 1914 in Troy, New York, Helen Ellett and her family moved to Grafton when she was six years old; though she relocated to Cohoes when she married her husband in 1932, she eventually returned to the town, where she and her husband ran the general store; and

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

WHEREAS, In 1943, during the second World War, when many men went off to defend their country, Helen Ellett happily accepted when offered the position of Fire Tower Observer at Dickinson Hill; with a love of horses, she arrived to work each day on horseback, and in 1962 witnessed from afar, the propane tanker explosion in Berlin; and

WHEREAS, Working alone in the small tower cabin until 1965, Helen Ellett kept a lookout for enemy planes, and with her typewriter, wrote articles for THE RECORD; and

WHEREAS, Helen Ellett is only the second female Fire Tower Observer in the state of New York, and is the subject of a new book, I REMEMBER WHEN: THE UNTOLD STORE OF HELEN ELLETT, written by Randy Kneer, President of the Friends of Grafton State Park; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished woman who has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, Helen Ellett 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 intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize 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 Helen Ellett upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Helen Ellett.