

2013-J2980

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lochland School, Inc. upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2014 Non-Profit Business of the Year Award by the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations, businesses, and individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals and organizations within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to the disability community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lochland School, Inc. upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2014 Non-Profit Business of the Year Award by the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce; this momentous occasion will be celebrated at the Chamber's Annual Dinner on Thursday, January 30, 2014, at Club 86, Geneva, New York; and

WHEREAS, Lochland School was founded in 1933 by Ms. Florence Stewart, a true pioneer in the field of residential care and training for developmentally disabled and learning disabled children; during a time when the majority of the disabled were institutionalized, she believed disabled children should remain in a nurturing and loving environment and be provided with specialized training and support to allow each child to grow to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, Lochland School began in a small location at Bellwood Farms on Pre-Emption Road in Geneva; during this time, the school was renowned in the United States and other countries for its unique and progressive

training, and luxurious residential facilities; and

WHEREAS, In 1936, Ms. Stewart believed the location no longer safely met the needs of her students, and Lochland School moved to its current location at 1065 Lochland Road; and

WHEREAS, An immense change occurred in 1977 when New York State regulations no longer allowed children and adults to live in the same residential setting; many of the residents at Lochland School had grown into adulthood and a choice was required; after much contemplation, the Board of Directors opted to have Lochland School remain a home setting for adults-only; and

WHEREAS, In 1994 Lochland School reached a major milestone when they opened Campbell House, the organization's first Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) certified home; and/or

WHEREAS, Lochland School currently provides residential and day services to adults 18 years or older, in a nurturing and supportive learning environment; there are 22 residents living at Lochland, some of whom have called Lochland their home for more than 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Lochland School's strongest asset is the employees, who on a day-to-day basis give compassionate care to each resident and assist them to reach their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, This year, Lochland School commemorated 80 years of celebrating the abilities of people with disabilities; during the last eight decades, Lochland has provided unique, individualized support and services to developmentally disabled people and their families; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the Geneva community, Lochland School residents and staff have been involved with the March of Dimes for many years; in addition, several residents volunteer at Geneva General Hospital, Geneva

Adult Day Center, Waterloo Adult Day Center, and Mobile Meals; two residents have also been nominated for the Athena Award; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Lochland School's Leadership Team has volunteered at the Ontario County United Day of Caring for more than ten

years, and supports numerous local businesses and non-profit agencies, such as the Boys and Girls Club, Finger Lakes Visiting Nurse Services, Geneva Rotary, Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Ontario ARC and Happiness House; and

WHEREAS, Today, just as it was in 1933, Lochland School continues to place an emphasis on self-determination, greater independence, individuality, as well as inclusion in society for those who are disabled, and will continue to be, with foresight and imagination, an asset to Geneva County and the Finger Lakes Region; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Lochland School, Inc. for its unwavering commitment to individuals with developmental disabilities, as it provides an uncompromising standard of excellence in the delivery of superlative service to the community and citizens it so ably serves; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lochland School, Inc. upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2014 Non-Profit Business of the Year Award by the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lochland School, Inc.