

2013-J3331

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dorothy Stoneman upon the occasion of being honored in conjunction with Women's History Month 2014 in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those women of achievement within the Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who inspire others through their model citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Dorothy Stoneman upon the occasion of being honored in conjunction with Women's History Month 2014 in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made invaluable contributions to the growth and strength of New York State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the State of New York officially sets aside time to recognize the achievements and lives of such exemplary women, representatives of the wide-ranging and vital roles women have played in the historic development of this great Empire State and its communities; the theme of this year's commemoration is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment"; and

WHEREAS, Education and community development advocate Dorothy Stoneman has been dedicated to the cause of social justice for 50 years; throughout her long and illustrious career, she has consistently epitomized the values of character, courage, and commitment in her unwavering service to her peers, colleagues, and fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Stoneman is Founder and CEO of YouthBuild USA Inc., the national support center for more than 273 YouthBuild programs in the United States, and the sponsor of YouthBuild International, which has

generated 102 YouthBuild programs in 14 other countries, including Mexico, South Africa, Haiti and Israel; and

WHEREAS, YouthBuild USA is a innovative non-profit organization that provides education, counseling and job skills to unemployed young adults between ages 16 and 24; the youth work on attaining high school diplomas or equivalency diplomas while learning job skills by building affordable housing or other tangible assets in their communities; hence, the organization emphasizes leadership development, community service, neighborhood uplift, and the creation of a positive community of adults and youth committed to each other's success; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Stoneman's abiding commitment to building a better society began at an early age; she joined the civil rights movement in 1964, and worked on initiatives to improve the quality of life in East Harlem for decades; it was there that she established the first YouthBuild program in 1978, working with local teenagers; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Stoneman has received numerous honors for her outstanding efforts; she is a recipient of the Harvard Call to Service Award, the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship, the John Gardner Leadership Award, and a MacArthur "genius" Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her service to her community, the State of New York, and the nation, Dorothy Stoneman has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Dorothy Stoneman and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, 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 commend Dorothy Stoneman upon the occasion of being honored in conjunc-

tion with Women's History Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dorothy Stoneman.