

## 2013-J3472

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Esther Lewis posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Family Planning Advocates of New York State

WHEREAS, Individuals who gave of their time and energies and served the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Esther Lewis has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to Esther Lewis posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Family Planning Advocates of New York State for her remarkable advocacy for the betterment of the women, men, and families of New York State on October 25, 2013, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Esther Lewis was the driving force behind the creation of Family Planning Advocates of New York State whose vision for a centralized and united voice of advocacy came from a set of circumstances for which we can all be grateful; and

WHEREAS, Born Esther Levin, on September 8, 1923, to parents Harry and Charlotte Levin, she graduated from Albany High School, and attended both the College of Saint Rose and the Parsons School of Design; and

WHEREAS, Esther Lewis served on the board of the New York Coalition for Family Planning, and as President of the Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood Board of Directors; in addition, she was a volunteer chair for the Planned Parenthood North East Region and established a Public Affairs Committee to secure funding for family planning services; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Esther Lewis worked with 21 Planned Parenthood organizations across New York to gain their support; she

organized Planned Parenthood with other family planning providers, as well as individuals to work to have a greater impact on public policy; and

WHEREAS, Esther Lewis began serving on the Family Planning Advocates of New York State Board of Directors in 1985; she was appointed to the Family Planning Advocates Board Executive Committee in 1988, and in 1995, received the designation of Ex-Officio; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Family Planning Advocates recognized Esther Lewis's hard work and dedication by bestowing upon her the eminent Al Moran Public Advocacy Award, the most prestigious award given by the Family Planning Advocates; and

WHEREAS, Esther Lewis was also commended for her unwavering dedication and leadership of the Family Planning Advocates; she was instrumental in increasing family planning services and advocating to keep funding intact; and

WHEREAS, Esther Lewis was called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and always gave of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Esther Lewis stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Esther Lewis was predeceased by her husband, Nahum; she is survived by their three children, Samuel, Naomi, Daniel, and their spouses, six grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and one brother, Joseph; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Esther Lewis displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Esther Lewis posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Family Planning Advocates of New York State;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Esther Lewis.