

2013-K868

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Olga Davis upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday on March 15, 2014

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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Olga Davis upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday to be celebrated with an Open House held in her honor and hosted by her daughters at the American Legion Post 915, Central Square, New York, on Saturday, March 15, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Olga was born on March 15, 1914, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Anthony and Mary Stolar, who immigrated from Austria in the early 1900s and were of Ukrainian descent; she was raised on a 16-acre farm in Liverpool, New York, and was the second born of 11 children; and

WHEREAS, After a fire destroyed their family home, 11 year-old Olga and her family made a "liveable" place in the barn until their home could be rebuilt; and

WHEREAS, Life on the farm was harsh for the Stolar family; Olga and her siblings stripped willow branches which her father would sell for money, and the children, along with their mother, picked and sold asparagus, going house to house in their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Olga dropped out of school in the seventh grade to help the family financially, as did most of her siblings; for about five years, she worked at Will & Baumer Candle Company in Liverpool, New York, positioning the wick in the candle making process; since transportation was not available, she had to walk to work, approximately three miles one way; and

WHEREAS, Olga was united in marriage to Delmar Davis on November 14, 1936, in St. Joseph's Church in Liverpool, New York; they were a strikingly handsome pair; Olga was a former contestant in the Miss Syracuse Pageant, and Delmar, of German and English heritage, looked like a modern-day movie star; the couple moved to Central Square, New York, in 1945, where she still resides; and

WHEREAS, Olga and Delmar Davis raised four wonderful daughters: the late Carol (the late James) Ott, Diane (Leland) Chapin; Bonnie (Robert) Nash and Debbie (the late William) White; Olga also helped raise two step-daughters and one grandson; today, she is the loving grandmother of 21 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild; and

WHEREAS, To financially assist her husband with the household expenses, Olga planted flowers and a vegetable garden and sold them out of a cart in front of the house; she was proud to say her strawberry garden paid their taxes for the year; in addition, she sold greeting cards out of a suitcase, and was a Luzier (makeup) sales representative; and

WHEREAS, Olga Davis was an active member of her community; she was a Girl Scout Leader and a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church Altar & Rosary Society; at times she supplied fresh flower bouquets for the altar on Sundays; and

WHEREAS, Always very artistic and creative, Olga Davis enrolled in adult woodworking classes and built several items including a 4-tier bookcase, a footstool with hinged top, and two decorative shelf units; she also took up dressmaking as well as leather craft, and made a man's belt and a wallet; and

WHEREAS, After the death of Delmar in 1966 at the age of 59, Olga worked at various jobs such as waitressing at several restaurants, and cleaning houses for many years; she continued to work her gardens and sell produce, along with home-baked breads and pies; she also continued

to process and can vegetables from her garden, and make jelly and jams from the trees and bushes in her yard, including crab apples, pears, blueberries, raspberries, and currants; and

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

WHEREAS, This distinguished woman 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, Olga Davis contributes her longevity to hard work, eating healthy, and keeping active; today she still does her own cooking and baking, and enjoys feeding and watching the birds, puttering in her gardens, and doing find-a-word puzzles; and

WHEREAS, This beloved woman 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 Olga Davis upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Olga Davis.