

2013-J3553

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Vera House upon the occasion of celebrating its 20th Annual White Ribbon Campaign on March 25, 2014

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 those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary organizations it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Vera House upon the occasion of celebrating its 20th Annual White Ribbon Campaign, to be recognized at its Breakfast on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, New York; and

WHEREAS, Vera House was founded in 1977 by a group of concerned individuals led by Sister Mary Vera, CSJ, who recognized the need for emergency sheltering services for women in crisis; and

WHEREAS, It is the mission of Vera House to end all domestic and sexual violence, to assist families in crisis, to support those affected by domestic and sexual violence to live safe, self-sufficient lives, to empower women and children, and to promote a culture of equality and respect in relationships; and

WHEREAS, This original mission blossomed into a wide range of domestic violence services including outreach and advocacy, domestic violence education programming, children's counseling, the Syracuse Area Domestic

and Sexual Violence Coalition and a domestic violence education program for male perpetrators of violence; and

WHEREAS, Among its countless accomplishments, in just one year, Vera House provided shelter to 398 men, women and children, answered 4,546 calls to its 24-hour Crisis and Support Line, and reached 19,127 individuals with its school-based community and professional education programs; and

WHEREAS, The White Ribbon Campaign began in Canada in 1991 to encourage men and boys to pin on a white ribbon as a personal acknowledgement of the important role men need to play in the effort to end violence against women; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 1995, the Campaign was established in Central New York by concerned men who invite all members of the community, men and women, young and old, to wear a ribbon or wristband to support Vera House and to raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Vera House upon the occasion of celebrating its 20th Annual White Ribbon Campaign on March 25, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Vera House.