

## 2013-K936

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Donna Donovan upon the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of distinguished service in the newspaper industry

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, For the past 40 years, Donna Donovan rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the newspaper industry; this momentous occasion will be celebrated with a Retirement Party in her honor on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at The Stanley Theatre in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Donna Donovan attended Syracuse University where she earned a Bachelor's degree Magna Cum Laude in both Newspaper Administration and Spanish; she began her illustrious career in 1974 working in various news positions for THE COURIER NEWS in Bridgewater, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Donna Donovan became the President and Publisher of THE OBSERVER-DISPATCH in Utica, New York, the esteemed position from which she will retire; she was the first woman appointed to the top editor role in Utica; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as President and Publisher, Donna Donovan served with loyalty, honor and distinction; she oversaw major improvements in editorial quality, championed First Amendment issues through news coverage and legal action, and introduced new sections of appeal to both readers and advertisers, including a weekly entertainment guide and monthly premium magazine; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she introduced multiple websites as well as digital news and advertising platforms, led acquisition and integration of the weekly newspaper and seven weekly shoppers, and initiated signa-

ture community programs celebrating local successes; and

WHEREAS, Prior to her current position, Donna Donovan was the first woman to serve as Publisher of THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, and the first woman to serve as a Publisher of South Dakota's largest newspaper, THE ARGUS LEADER; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, she served as Executive Editor of THE DAILY PRESS and THE OBSERVER-DISPATCH, where she oversaw the complete redesign of both newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Sincerely loved and greatly respected by all those with whom she worked, Donna Donovan will be remembered for her honesty, integrity, keen sense of duty and ability to show a unique grasp of human problems in her official acts; and

WHEREAS, Serving the community through meaningful local journalism, Donna Donovan is also on the Literacy. Coalition Leadership Committee, Board of Directors of the Stanley Center for the Arts, Board of Trustees of the New York Newspaper Foundation, and Eucharistic Minister and Lector of St. John the Evangelist Church; and

WHEREAS, Donna Donovan has received numerous awards and accolades, some of which include: Finalist, Gannett First Amendment Award; Inductee, Professional Gallery, Syracuse University Newhouse School of Public Communications; Dewitt Clinton Masonic Award for Community Service; Gannett President's Ring for Excellence as a Newspaper Publisher; and Frank Tripp Award for Innovation in News/Community Service; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Donna Donovan over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 Donna Donovan upon the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Donna Donovan.