

2013-J4000

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Marcene Johnson, Director of Educational Services at Brookside School, upon the occasion of celebrating 40 years of distinguished service to the Children of Ulster County on March 11, 2014

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Marcene Johnson, Director of Educational Services at Brookside School, upon the occasion of celebrating 40 years of distinguished service to the Children of Ulster County at the Kick-Off of Brookside School's Community Week on Tuesday, March 11, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Marcene Johnson was hired as a bus driver by Ulster-Greene ARC in 1973; the following year she became a teacher for the Brookside School program; she was promoted to Master Teacher in 1976, and three years later became the Director of Educational Services, the position she continues to hold today; and

WHEREAS, Ulster-Greene ARC was founded in 1956 by families in Ulster and Greene counties who insisted their children with disabilities have the same opportunities as anyone else; its mission is to offer people with intellectual and other disabilities opportunities to live and experience full lives; and

WHEREAS, Since the beginning of her illustrious career, Marcene Johnson's vision remains that children with special needs be in the least restrictive environment possible, and be provided educational opportunities in an integrated setting; Brookside School implements this inclusion model as students with and without disabilities are taught within the same classes; and

WHEREAS, As a Universal Pre-Kindergarten site for the Rondout Valley Central School District and an Ulster County Special Education Preschool, Brookside School prides itself on offering every child support, love, and rich opportunities to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, For more than four decades, Marcene Johnson has touched the lives of thousands of students; her commitment and stamina to the demands of her job has earned her the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Marcene Johnson is a strong advocate and champion for the acceptance of all students within the community and will subsequently be honored at Brookside School's Annual Community Week; and

WHEREAS, Each year in March, Brookside School transforms into a small community; classrooms become a variety of stores, and students are taught how to go to the bank to cash their paychecks, as well as how to spend their money at each store; and

WHEREAS, Community Week is a true testament to the creativity of Marcene Johnson and the educators at Brookside School, and how they fully engage each student in functional learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Marcene Johnson provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, Marcene Johnson has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of Ulster County, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for her impressive dedi-

cation to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Marcene Johnson, Director of Educational Services at Brookside School, upon the occasion of celebrating 40 years of dedicated service in education, and for her significant contributions to education in New York State; and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Marcene Johnson.