

2013-J4456

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Wanita W. Lewis upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday

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 Wanita W. Lewis upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Wanita W. Lewis was born on a farm on Bullock Hill in the Town of Tompkins, New York, on August 27, 1914; and

WHEREAS, After graduating at the age of 16 from Delaware Academy, Wanita W. Lewis began working for the Delaware County Clerk's Office in 1930, ably serving in this office for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed woman married her high school sweetheart, Donald H. Lewis, at the age of 19; together, they started a family, and raised three beautiful children, John, Claire, and Steve; and

WHEREAS, While caring for her children as a young mother, Wanita W. Lewis taught Sunday School at the former 2nd Presbyterian Church, volunteered as a Girl Scout leader, knitted for the Red Cross and served her country as part of the government's Air Observer Corps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, Wanita W. Lewis returned to the workplace, securing a position in the Delaware County Treasurer's office; she also began attending night classes in accounting at SUNY Delhi; the following year, she received the highest score on the civil service exam becoming an accountant, and later office manager at the treasurer's office; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, this remarkable woman became deputy treasurer of Delaware County, and then served as interim treasurer from June of 1970

until December 1970; that same year, she earned her associate's degree in business administration from SUNY Delhi; and

WHEREAS, Wanita W. Lewis announced her candidacy for Delhi town supervisor and was elected in November 1973; she became the first woman to gain election to the post in the history of Delaware County, and was reelected in 1975; during her tenure, the Delhi Town Hall was constructed and officially opened to the public; and

WHEREAS, Participating in numerous civic and professional organizations, Wanita W. Lewis is a member and past district deputy of the Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star and legislative chair of the Business and Professional Women's organization; she was also treasurer of the Delaware Women Golfers Association and highly involved in the creation of the new Delhi College Golf Course; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, Wanita W. Lewis retired from her position as town supervisor, and she and her husband relocated to Florida; after the death of Donald Lewis, she returned to her beloved Delaware County in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Wanita W. Lewis has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; she has been an inspiration to all those who have known her; 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 Wanita W. Lewis upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Wanita W. Lewis.