

2013-J4553

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lisa M. Betrus upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 Visionary Individual of the Year Award by the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce

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 that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lisa M. Betrus upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 Visionary Individual of the Year Award by the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at Francesca's in Ilion, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 1995, Lisa M. Betrus has been the CEO/administrator of Valley Health Services, Inc. (VHS), a 160 bed long-term care and rehabilitation facility located in Herkimer, New York; and

WHEREAS, A life-long proponent of long-term care, Lisa M. Betrus began her career as a teenager working in the dietary department of St. Joseph Nursing Home in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Lisa M. Betrus completed a bachelor of science in health services administration at Ithaca College and a master's degree in business administration at Sage Graduate School in Troy, New York; furthermore, she is a licensed nursing home administrator; and

WHEREAS, One of Lisa M. Betrus' more prominent achievements was the establishment of a palliative care center at VHS, a program designed to serve as a model for many rural communities dealing with the needs of the seriously ill; it was awarded the Outstanding Rural Health Program

award in 2004 by the New York State Association for Rural Health; and WHEREAS, Lisa M. Betrus has most recently led VHS and her staff in receiving a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and a top nursing home national ranking from US News & World Report; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable administrator is also leading the expansion of services offered by VHS to include Herkimer's first assisted living facility, which is currently under construction and slated to open in August of 2014; and

WHEREAS, Lisa M. Betrus has received numerous awards and accolades for her community service, including the Central New York Women in Business Award, the Ithaca College Outstanding Young Alumni Award and an Accent on Excellence Award; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this esteemed woman was named a Little Falls WCA Woman of Distinction in 2011 for her establishment of an adult day health care program in the City of Little Falls; she also earned the Thomas Clark Memorial Award for leadership from Leading Age New York in 2012, and the Genesis Group award for Outstanding Healthcare Leadership in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Lisa M. Betrus has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, A member of numerous civic and professional organizations, Lisa M. Betrus serves on the boards of the Community Care Alliance, the Central New York Community Arts Council, At Home Care, and Excellus BlueCross Blue Shield, Utica Region; she regularly serves as a guest lecturer at Ithaca College discussing topics related to health administration and aging services; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when an individual of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, she should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this

great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lisa M. Betrus upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 Visionary Individual of the Year Award by the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lisa M. Betrus.