

## 2013-J4651

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of My First School, A Cooperative Experience

WHEREAS, Organizations which seek to enhance the education of our youngest students help to provide children with a solid knowledge base upon which to build their future studies; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those schools of commitment and high achievement whose purpose and endeavors have been dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of My First School, which was celebrated at a Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 22, 2014 in Floral Park, Queens; and

WHEREAS, My First School, A Cooperative Experience (MFS), is a unique nursery school program dedicated to fostering the social, emotional, and academic growth of early learners; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1963, MFS was started in the United Methodist Church of Floral Park by parishioners, Caryll Winkler and Fanne Smith; the school's mission from the beginning was to serve the needs of its community, providing nursery school services that placed an emphasis on parental involvement; and

WHEREAS, Originally known as the Floral Park Methodist Cooperative Nursery School, this esteemed educational institution began with the philosophy that children learn best through play and the participation of parental figures from an early age; and

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Rita Rosenstein, a distinguished educator with 36 years service, MFS grew from a single pre-kindergarten class for the children of church members to a renowned learning center,

with 12 classes serving 152 children ages 15 months to six years old;  
and

WHEREAS, My First School's exceptional teachers are all masters certified and have training in current math, reading and writing programs utilized by the Floral Park-Bellerose School District; all classes have a paid assistant as well; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, MFS has remained true to its mission of involving parents as an integral part of their child's education; in addition to serving on various committees and the executive board, parents take turns assisting inside the classroom as a Helping Parent, forging greater ties with the children and their community; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable institution is the only preschool in New York State to have a direct partnership with Adelphi University; it proudly offers the Raising a Thinking Child program, a parenting class which helps mothers and fathers guide young children to resolve conflicts and get along better with others; and

WHEREAS, MFS and its members have displayed an outstanding commitment to giving back to the community; the school hosts many special events during the year, including an annual multicultural day, celebrating the different cultures of the families it serves; and

WHEREAS, Although separate from the United Methodist Church in which it is located, MFS proudly assists in church fundraising activities such as the fall harvest fair and spring plant sale in gratitude for hosting the school; and

WHEREAS, In addition, MFS has been a center for toy donations and sponsor of the Hance Family Foundation's Annual 5k Race and Family Fun Day; furthermore, it has worked with the foundation to present "Beautiful Me," a special class which focuses on self-esteem and empowerment for young girls; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its 50 years of commendable service, My First School has become an integral part of the history of its community,

representing a dynamic, responsive and positive force within the Village of Floral Park and the Empire State; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of My First School, A Cooperative Experience; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to My First School.