

2013-J5227

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Letha DeFrance Maine Seeley Reader upon the occasion of celebrating her 108th 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, Born on May 7, 1906, in Willet, New York, to Franklin L. and Ella Maine, Mrs. Reader was one of four children; and

WHEREAS, She graduated from Cincinnatus High School in 1924, and then the Central City Business Institute in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Mrs. Reader has resided in several towns of Central New York, but the majority of those years have been in Cortland County; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Reader worked for the Yager Law Office in Cortland, New York, and then operated a grocery and general store, Seeley's Store, in Willet, during the 1930s with her first husband whom she married in 1927; together, they had two children, Eleanor J. and the late Ramon L.; and

WHEREAS, Later, Mrs. Reader remarried to the late Asa Reader; and

WHEREAS, Remaining active throughout her years, Mrs. Reader has kept her mind and hands busy by volunteering through her church and community, doing recreational activities, making crafts, doing puzzles or playing cards, dominoes, and bingo; she also enjoyed reading the newspaper every evening or watching the news to stay current; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman has a personal creed of good living, eating healthy, and exercising; in her eighties, she was still riding her bicycle and doing some of her own home repairs, and attended many New York State Fairs and continued to attend with fellow residents of

the Cortland Regional Nursing Center; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Mrs. Reader enjoyed sharing the joys of her own childhood in the rural country with her grandchildren by joining them on family camping trips, making homemade ice cream, taking them to parades and fairs, berry picking, and bullhead fishing in ponds; and

WHEREAS, Most of all, Mrs. Reader loved being outdoors, gardening both flowers and homegrown vegetables, and enjoyed sharing her plants and produce with family, friends, and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Reader has been a constant companion to family members, and enjoyed traveling to visit friends and relatives; and

WHEREAS, Records of Mrs. Reader's past activities in the community over the many years can be found in past issues of the CORTLAND STANDARD; and

WHEREAS, Today, Mrs. Reader is the loving grandmother of three grandchildren, Diane M., Keith A., and Denise L., and has been further blessed with seven great-grandchildren, Derek K., Brett A., Mariah A., Chad M., Kayla R., Kara J., and Kyle A., all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished woman has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, This beloved woman has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; 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 Letha DeFrance Maine Seeley Reader upon the occasion of her 108th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Letha DeFrance Maine Seeley Reader.