

2013-J5272

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as Spiritual Leader of Temple Beth Torah

WHEREAS, It is with great admiration, and deepest respect that this Legislative Body is moved to pay tribute to an eminent gentleman of indomitable spirit and dedication, whose purposeful life and accomplishments will forever stand as an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as Spiritual Leader of Temple Beth Torah to be celebrated on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at Temple Beth Torah in Melville, New York; and

WHEREAS, In his leadership of Temple Beth Torah, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD brought an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Since 1981, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD has served as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Torah in Melville, New York; he was the youngest rabbi ever ordained by Hebrew Union College, and the only person to complete the six-year rabbinical program in two years of residence; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Philosophy from Northwestern University in 1981, where he also served as the director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation; while at Northwestern University, he completed doctoral course work in the History and Literature of Religions, specializing in Buddhism and Judaism, and is the recipient of many honorary degrees; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD has served on the faculties of

Antioch College, Northwestern University, and Hebrew Union College, and has lectured at Princeton and Amherst College, as well as invited to lecture on the ethics of assisted reproductive technologies during Grand Rounds of the Harvard Medical School; in addition, he has delivered many invited lectures, and was an invited participant at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD has contributed academic papers to the Annual of the American Psychiatric Association, The Journal of the US Commission on Civil Rights, and other academic and opinion journals; he was invited to contribute to the collection of essays on the State of Jewish Belief by COMMENTARY magazine; and

WHEREAS, A man of many accomplishments, Rabbi Gellman was the Chairman of The Medical Ethics Committee of UJA-Federation, and has served on their board of trustees, was president of The New York Board of Rabbis during the attack on New York in 2001, and delivered one of the keynote speeches at the Memorial Service In Yankee Stadium on September 23, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD invented and developed the literary field of modern midrash for children when he served as Contributing Editor of MOMENT magazine, and has published two collections of modern bible stories for children, DOES GOD HAVE A BIG TOE?, and GOD'S MAILBOX, as well as many other publications; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his publications, including The Christopher Award, and an HBO animated special for children based on one of his books was awarded The George Foster Peabody Award; and

WHEREAS, This spiritual man writes a weekly column, "THE SPIRITUAL STATE", for NEWSWEEK magazine, and a nationally syndicated religious

advice column that appears locally in NEWSDAY; the readers of NEWSDAY voted Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD the most outstanding leader and activist of the last century on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Golf Writers of America, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD is on the ranking panel of GOLF DIGEST magazine, and is the recipient of the Winnie Palmer Award from the Metropolitan Golf Writers of New York; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Betty, and their two children, Mara and Max, as well as two grandchildren, Zeke and Daisy, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD lives his life with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for others; rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which he displayed throughout his life and throughout his leadership of the Temple Beth Torah for many years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor an eminent gentleman and unparalleled spiritual leader, Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD noting the significance of his unremitting dedication and sagacious leadership on behalf of the Temple Beth Torah, the Melville community, and the countless numbers who were sustained through his caring benevolence throughout his life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Marc Gellman, PhD.