

2013-J5855

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jan Gallas upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 Community Service Award by the American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association on June 16, 2014

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Jan Gallas has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jan Gallas upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 Community Service Award by the American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association, which was celebrated on Tuesday, June 16, 2014, at the Saint Sophia Community Center, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Jan Gallas 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, For 23 years, this esteemed woman held the position of Executive Secretary/Office Manager in the Office of Pupil Services for South Colonie Schools; she also worked for Capital Region BOCES as Secretary to the Summer Program, responsible for planning and organizing valuable programs for Special Education students; furthermore, she taught Computer Education and quilting crafts in the Adult Education Program for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, While living in Florida, Jan Gallas and her late husband, John, organized a Literacy Volunteer Program which they ran for nine years; she admirably worked with adults from many countries, teaching

and imparting the oral, written, and organizational skills and confidence which would help them build better lives; the program's great success led to it being expanded to the local community college level; and

WHEREAS, Jan Gallas is well-regarded in the St. Sophia community for her two decades of service as a dedicated member of the Ladies Philoptochos Society; since becoming President, she has worked to evolve the already successful group into one providing even higher levels of charity and volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, she implemented "The Knitters of St. Sophia," which brings together women from the three local Greek Orthodox churches for the purpose of fellowship and to use knitting and crochet crafts to make a difference; all items and monetary proceeds from the group's products are donated to local causes; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Jan Gallas attended the Archdiocesan Clergy/Laity Convention and was chosen to lead the two-year Chapter Challenge; inspired by this call to service, she used her organizational talents to synergize the Greek women's church organizations of the Albany area in raising significant funds for the Schenectady City Rescue Mission; and

WHEREAS, Always seeking to help those in need, Jan Gallas has worked with the Homeless Action Committee (HAC) in Albany to provide brown bag lunches and other important services for those less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman has left an indelible mark during her time as President of the Ladies Philoptochos Society; her outstanding work has continued the society's tradition of service to the community while at the same time contributing to many new worthy goals; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Jan Gallas has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jan Gallas upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of

the 2014 Community Service Award by the American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jan Gallas.