

2013-J5989

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Peter and Gretchen Koch upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2014 Convention Days Community Service Award

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, Peter and Gretchen Koch have given not only of their time and energies but also of their competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently have been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Peter and Gretchen Koch upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2014 Convention Days Community Service Award, to be celebrated at its Women's Rights Convention from Friday, July 18, 2014 to Sunday, July 20, 2014, in Seneca Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, Peter and Gretchen Koch have been called upon to contribute their time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and have always given of themselves unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Peter Koch was born in 1942 on Staten Island, New York; upon graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1964, he honorably served in the United States Army until 1967, during which time his daughter's Kimberly Ann and Heather Marie were born; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return from his tour of duty, Peter Koch worked for the Ford Motor Company until 1969; leaving Ford he then worked at G&T Ford in Seneca Falls for a year, and then moved on to H&L Ford in Auburn until 1979; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1979, Peter Koch purchased Plaza Motors, and the following year he married his wife Gretchen; together the couple has two children, Charlotte and George; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Peter and Gretchen Koch bought the Chrysler facility on Fall Street and reopened the local Chrysler Plymouth dealership that transitioned over the years to Peter Koch Chrysler Dodge Jeep; they opened Peter Koch Chrysler Dodge Jeep in Elmira, New York in 1990; and WHEREAS, Valued and involved members of the community, Peter and Gretchen Koch have actively served the Seneca Falls community in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Along with working at the dealerships, Gretchen Koch, who was born in Buffalo, has volunteered with numerous organizations throughout the community including the Seneca Falls Historical Society, St. Patrick's School, the Seneca County Children's Committee, the Seneca Falls Library, and the House of Concern; and

WHEREAS, Peter and Gretchen Koch have participated in the choir and Parish Council at St. Francis/St. Clare, Birthright of Seneca Falls, and Habitat for Humanity; they have also supported the National Women's Hall of Fame, and sponsored five scholarships at DeSales High School; and

WHEREAS, In addition, they have served as Board Member and Past President of the DeSales Board, and are very active with the Nicaragua Project collecting, refurbishing and packing items to be sent to Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, Peter and Gretchen Koch have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; they retired from the dealership in 2012 and are now living in Fayette, New York; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Peter and Gretchen Koch have displayed throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of

this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Peter and Gretchen Koch upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2014 Convention Days Community Service Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Peter and Gretchen Koch.