

2015-J558

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Dr. Olivia J. Hooker upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday at the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislator's 44th Annual Conference on February 15, 2015

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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Olivia J. Hooker upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday to be celebrated at the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislator's 44th Annual Conference at the Hilton Albany Hotel, Albany, New York, on Sunday, February 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Olivia J. Hooker was born on February 12, 1915, the fourth of five children, to Anita J. and Samuel D. Hooker, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and later moved with her family to Tulsa, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Olivia J. Hooker was six years old when her community in Tulsa was destroyed on May 31, 1921, by the worst race riot in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Olivia J. Hooker, along with other survivors of the Tulsa race riot, was instrumental in helping found the Tulsa Race Riot Commission, which drafted recommendations for restitution; and

WHEREAS, Olivia J. Hooker earned her bachelor's degree from Ohio State University, and taught third grade before proudly serving her country as a member in the United States Coast Guard during World War II; she was the first African-American woman to serve in active duty in the Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, Upon her separation from the military, with the esteemed rank

of Yeoman, Second Class, Olivia J. Hooker went on to earn a Master's degree in Psychological Services from Teachers College at Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, Olivia J. Hooker then served three years as a Psychologist at Albion State School; after a brief four months as a School Psychologist in both New York and Brooklyn, she became Senior Psychologist at Bedford Hills Reformatory and Prison for Women; and

WHEREAS, Olivia J. Hooker went on to obtain her Ph.D from the University of Rochester, where she was one of two African-American female students; and

WHEREAS, Upon completion, Dr. Olivia J. Hooker served as Director of Psychology and Associate Administrator for 22 years at New York's Kennedy Child Study Center; concurrently, she taught in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Fordham University, retiring as Associate Professor in 1985; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Olivia J. Hooker evaluated candidates for special schools and supervised School Psychology Interns, at the Fred S. Keller School of Behavior Analysis, before retiring again in 2002; and

WHEREAS, As a widely respected academic, Dr. Olivia J. Hooker has delivered papers in child assessment at conferences in Rome and Bologna, Italy, and in Cairo, Egypt, as well as several major United States cities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Olivia J. Hooker has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors including serving as a Board Member of White Plains Early Learning Center, The Visiting Nurse's Association, Terrence Cardinal Cook Services, and Kennedy Child Study Center; and

WHEREAS, Currently, this exceptional woman serves on the Executive Committee of the White Plains - Greenburgh NAACP; she also sponsors youth in the NAACP ACT-SO program at both the regional and national levels, and serves in the Children's Advisory Services of University

Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Olivia J. Hooker, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, She is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, where she is a Certified Layspeaker, an enthusiastic member of the United Methodist Women; and

WHEREAS, In retirement, Dr. Olivia J. Hooker remains active, devoting her time at Westchester Medical Center and mentoring as a literacy volunteer as well as continuing her work with children and their parents, encouraging youth to discover new horizons of achievement, thus striving to utilize their full potential; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, in December of 2011, Dr. Olivia J. Hooker was inducted into the Westchester Hall of Fame and in February of 2012, she was honored with the illustrious Trailblazer Award; and

WHEREAS, On April 30, 2012, at the remarkable age of 97, Professor Emerita Olivia J. Hooker became the oldest member ever inducted into Psi Chi, the esteemed International Honor Society in Psychology; 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; she has truly 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 Dr. Olivia J. Hooker upon the occasion of celebrating her

100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Olivia J. Hooker.