

2015-J1039

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Superintendent William S. Speck upon the occasion of his retirement after 31 years of distinguished service to Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Superintendent William S. Speck upon the occasion of his retirement after 31 years of distinguished service to Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES; he will officially retire on November 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, For over three decades, William S. Speck rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES; and

WHEREAS, William S. Speck is a graduate of Boston University with a degree in Special Education; he taught for four years in Massachusetts before moving with his wife to live in both Nebraska and Colorado; and

WHEREAS, As a young man, William S. Speck worked for several years on the Burlington Northern Railroad as a brakeman and conductor, running freight trains as far west as Wyoming and the Dakotas; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return to Upstate New York, William S. Speck earned his masters degree in Special Education from Syracuse University, and completed a certificate in advanced studies from SUNY Cortland; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, William S. Speck began his career with Cayuga-Onon-

daga BOCES as a teacher at the Summit School, a pilot program for alternative education to help troubled youth succeed in the transition to middle school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, As a teacher, William S. Speck displayed a deep commitment to providing instruction and emotional support, serving the young people of his community with intelligence, compassion, and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, William S. Speck was promoted to Director of Career and Technical Education where he provided exemplary administrative leadership in such areas as staff training, budget management, and developing data systems to measure student achievement; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his love of education and mentoring, as well as his concern for children, William S. Speck was appointed Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES District Superintendent of Schools in 2007; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Superintendent William S. Speck expertly guided programs and services, lead local school improvements to close achievement gaps, and created new capacity to recruit and prepare school leaders, supporting a system which encourages high academic achievement for all students; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, William S. Speck is a member of the boards of directors of such notable organizations as the United Way of Cayuga County Inc. and the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce; in addition, he is a past member of the Long Hill Volunteer Fire Department, and past Treasurer for the Scipio, Venice, Long Hill Poplar Ridge Fire District; and

WHEREAS, Among his numerous honors and accolades received during his distinguished career, William S. Speck was named the 1997 Outstanding Administrator by the Cayuga-Onondaga School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his parents, Joseph and Mary Speck, his wife, Karen Speck, and his two daughters and sons-in-law,

Alexis and Patrick Glennon, and Natalie and Theodore Kimbrough, as well as his two grandchildren, Rosemary and Archer, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which William S. Speck has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Superintendent William S. Speck upon the occasion of his retirement after 31 years of distinguished service to Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to William S. Speck.