

## 2015-J1207

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Florence Merle upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday

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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Florence Merle upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Florence Merle was raised on her family's farm near the Village of Wyoming, within the Town of Middlebury, Wyoming County, New York; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating from Warsaw High School, Florence Merle served as the first full-time secretary in the Wyoming County 4-H; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 17, she met her future husband, Arthur, who she married in 1940; coincidentally, their marriage included a lifetime in the maple syrup business; and

WHEREAS Today, Florence Merle is the oldest of four generations at Merle Maple Farm and still has an active role in its operations, including sealing maple candy bags at the family's shop, greeting visitors, and handing out samples during the Annual Celebration of Maple Weekend; and

WHEREAS, Florence Merle and her husband, Arthur, both earned the state's prestigious Hubbell Award, presented to a maple producer, in recognition of their outstanding work on behalf of maple education; and

WHEREAS, The Merle Maple Farm has continuously expanded, and now includes a full-fledged production space, under the luminous direction

of her youngest son, Lyle; and

WHEREAS, An inspiration to many people, Florence Merle remains a special resource to the Merle Maple Farm, and retains a sharp knowledge of the maple products and production; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being a Hall-of-Famer in the maple industry, in 1936, Florence Merle, along with two dear friends, completed an impressive cross-country road trip; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Florence Merle has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, This beloved woman has 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, Today, Florence Merle is the loving mother of five children, and the proud grandmother of one great-grandson, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her accomplishments; 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 Florence Merle upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Florence Merle.