

2015-J1680

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Brenda Gibbs upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Cornerstone Award by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Zeta Lambda Chapter

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, Brenda Gibbs 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 Brenda Gibbs upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Cornerstone Award by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Zeta Lambda Chapter, to be celebrated at its 6th Annual "A Mother's Dream" Scholarship Gospel Brunch on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at Terrace on the Park, Flushing Meadow, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Illinois, Brenda Gibbs graduated third in her senior class from Zion-Benton Township High School; she went on to attend Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa before transferring to Mount Mary College in Milwaukee where she majored in Occupational Therapy; and

WHEREAS, During her time at Mount Mary College, now Mount Mary University, Brenda Gibbs served as President of the College Council, was a member of the biology club and occupational therapy club, joined the campus choir, and participated in athletic association tournaments; and

WHEREAS, In addition, while serving as vice president of the junior class, Brenda Gibbs produced and directed the Mount Mary Variety Show during which time she was listed in an edition of WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES; and

WHEREAS, Initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as an undergraduate member of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Chapter, Epsilon Kappa Omega, Brenda Gibbs was soon thereafter elected "Sweetheart" by the undergraduates of Delta Chi Lambda Chapter, Milwaukee, of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at their annual Sweetheart Dance; and

WHEREAS, Brenda Gibbs graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from Mount Mary College in 1964; upon the completion of her internship and exam credentialing requirements, she came to New York and worked as a staff Occupation Therapist (OT) at Goldwater Memorial Hospital for one year; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed woman went on to serve as a staff OT, student supervisor, assistant director, and for a short time, director of Occupational Therapy at Mount Sinai Hospital; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Brenda Gibbs was hired as a staff OT at Downstate Medical Center/SUNY University Hospital of Brooklyn, where she became OT director in 1975, until her retirement from the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Brenda Gibbs earned her Master's degree in Political Science/Public Policy Administration from Queens College in 1991; she spent the latter 18 years of her career, from 1995 until 2013, working as an Occupational Therapist with Visiting Nurse Service of New York; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her illustrious career, Brenda Gibbs has guest lectured at the Columbia University OT Program, the SUNY Downstate OT Program, and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine; she has presented at an OT National Conference, became certified in upper extremity prosthetics training, and authored an article in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY; and

WHEREAS, For more than five decades, Brenda Gibbs has been an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she has served on various committees, as well as on the AKA Day Care Board and as Health

Committee Chairperson for the Epsilon Pi Omega Chapter; and
WHEREAS, Active within the community, Brenda Gibbs's association memberships include the American Occupational Therapy Association, Retired United University Professions/NYSUT, New York State Occupational Therapy Association/Metropolitan District and the NAACP, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Richard, and their three children, Gigi, Peter and Brendan, as well as their grandchildren, Bryson, Peter, Jr. and Nyah, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Brenda Gibbs upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Cornerstone Award by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Zeta Lambda Chapter; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Brenda Gibbs.