

2015-J3004

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Gilda D. Brower upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, The result of many individual efforts, the excellence and the success of the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes is due in large part to the efforts of Gilda D. Brower; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Gilda D. Brower upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes, to be celebrated with a Retirement Party in her honor on Saturday, June 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Gilda D. Brower earned a bachelor's degree in Education from Montclair State Teachers College, as well as an AMS Early Childhood credential in Michigan before teaching at two Montessori schools in Upstate New York and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, A true inspiration and mentor, Gilda D. Brower founded the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes more than three decades ago in 1981; she will officially retire from the esteemed position of Head Teacher and Directress in June of 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Montessori School of the Finger Lakes, formerly known as the Montessori Children's House, was opened in Auburn, New York as a preschool/kindergarten and, largely at the request of local parents and students, expanded to include first through third grades in 1995, and again in 1996 to include grades fourth through eighth; and

WHEREAS, Gilda D. Brower has been certified by the American Montessori Society since 1971, and is a member of the American Montessori Society and the North American Montessori Teacher Association; she continues to train Montessori teachers from across the United States and Canada, and her name has become synonymous with the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes, with generations of children and their parents crediting her as the source of their child's success in school; and

WHEREAS, Truly devoted to the children of the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes, Gilda D. Brower has created a homelike environment, lavishing attention and affection onto each child within her care; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she appears at the pastoral Pine Ridge campus on the weekends to care for the goats, chickens, bunnies, guinea pigs and birds that are part of the Montessori zoology program, and has been known to ignore school day closings to provide a place for families who have no child care backup; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Gilda D. Brower, the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes has remained true to its mission to guide children in independent learning; to foster their exploration and understanding of the environment; and to promote respectful interaction, enabling each student to become contributing members of the global community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her illustrious career in education, Gilda D. Brower served on the Auburn City Council from 2008 until 2011, as one of only four women in the City's history to be elected as a government official; she has also served as Secretary of the Owasco Watershed Lake Association; and

WHEREAS, A caring, competent and committed woman, Gilda D. Brower's character and integrity are the hallmarks of her life and work as an

educational leader, a community volunteer and as a person; her quiet approach and caring attitude creates confidence and loyalty among colleagues and friends alike; and

WHEREAS, The Auburn Community is indeed fortunate and blessed to have such a dedicated and respected educational leader for more than three decades; her wisdom and contributions reached into every classroom, and she truly made a difference in the lives of those lucky enough to have worked with her; and

WHEREAS, Gilda D. Brower has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Robert, and their two children, Sarah (Douglas) and Patrick (Erin), as well as four grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, In completing her service as Head Teacher and Directress, Gilda D. Brower leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; she leaves behind a legacy to the residents of the Auburn community and to future generations of its students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Gilda D. Brower upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Montessori School of the Finger Lakes, and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gilda D. Brower.