

## 2015-J5419

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mary Ellen Keith upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging on May 10, 2016

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 honor Mary Ellen Keith upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging at its Annual Senior Citizens Day Celebration on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at the Hart Theatre Lounge in The Egg, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Each May, the New York State Office for the Aging pauses to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by older citizens during National Older Americans Month; and

WHEREAS, Members of older generations have helped build and shape our Nation to be the greatest in the world; they have defended our freedoms and values to ensure that those who come after them may have better lives; nowhere in the Nation is the legacy of their efforts more visible and more a part of the lives of all citizens than here in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed woman has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Keith, along with her husband, is the founder of the St. Paul's Assumption Food Pantry in Vermontville; tireless in her pursuit of addressing the hunger needs of the community, she has been vital in the success of the local food pantry; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she was the first female elected official in Franklin County; she served as the Town Supervisor for eight years in the 1980s, and was reelected in 1997, serving in this capacity until 2009; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her illustrious tenure, Mary Ellen Keith was instrumental in securing a new town garage, as well as in the purchasing of land for a recreational park; during this time she started the summer food program, utilizing the recreational park to ensure children throughout the community were fed; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Keith also ran an Adult Proprietary Home for the elderly for more than 15 years to ensure that seniors who did not meet nursing home criteria had a home to live in; she was also a volunteer for the 4-H program, where she was a leader for area children; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to her community, Mary Ellen Keith is a member of the Brighton 55 Club and Senior Singers where she plays portable organ at the local nursing homes; she also continues to act as the coordinator of the food pantry she created; and

WHEREAS, While raising her family, Mary Ellen Keith and her husband were also foster parents to numerous children; during this time she also returned to school and obtained her LPN certification; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Mary Ellen Keith has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Patrick, their nine children and 21 grandchildren, as well as 34 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Mary Ellen Keith has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Keith, a very active and industrious woman, has inspired and enriched the lives of those she serves through her volun-

teerism, generously sharing the wisdom gained over years of experiencing life to its fullest; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mary Ellen Keith upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging on May 10, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mary Ellen Keith.