

2017-J803

Senate Resolution No. 803

BY: Senator KENNEDY

MOURNING the death of Barbara Wagner, founding director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Wagner of Getzville, New York, died on Friday, February 17, 2017, at the age of 80; and

WHEREAS, Born Barbara McCarthy in Lockport, New York, she attended Lockport Senior High School and went on to study at the University of Buffalo; after graduation, she advanced her studies at Westminster Choir College and received the opportunity to further her career at Germany's Munich Conservatory; and

WHEREAS, With her vast experience, Barbara Wagner went on to direct the choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church, where her husband, Reverend William G. Wagner, was a minister; under her luminous leadership, the church choir had two European tours, recorded for American Public Radio, and performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic

Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being the founding director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, which she directed for 10 years, Barbara Wagner taught vocal music at both Nichols School and Buffalo Seminary, served as Music Director at Temple Beth Am for 12 years and directed the Orchard Park Chorale for five years; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Wagner was a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Erie County Music Educators Association, the American Guild of Organists, and the Chromatic Club; she was also the founder of the Unitarian Universalists Musicians Network; and

WHEREAS, For her commitment to her community and music, Barbara Wagner was awarded the Erie County Music Educator/BPO Award for Excellence in Choral Education; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Wagner believed that music transcends boundaries, appreciating and celebrating the beauty that music can bring to all of our lives; and

WHEREAS, A passionate leading figure in Western New York choral music, Barbara Wagner distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Wagner's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Reverend William G. Wagner,

Barbara Wagner is survived by her sister, Jeanne Gunby, her loving daughters, Carrie Martin and Molly Wagner, and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Barbara Wagner leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Barbara Wagner, founding director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Barbara Wagner.