

2017-J3164

Senate Resolution No. 3164

BY: Senator KENNEDY

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
International Institute of Buffalo

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the International Institute of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, After World War I millions of people came to the United States; the YWCA realized the need for specialized services for these immigrants and consequently, established programs in affiliates across the country called International Institutes; and

WHEREAS, The International Institute of Buffalo was established by the local YWCA in 1918 to help female immigrants integrate into society; and

WHEREAS, The International Institute of Buffalo incorporated as an

independent nonprofit organization in 1934, when it broadened its mission to also serve both men and children; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, the International Institute of Buffalo moved to its current building, a beautiful Georgian Revival mansion which had been designed for lawyer Harlowe C. Curtiss in 1898; and

WHEREAS, Over the past century, this vital organization has become a mainstay of the Buffalo community, helping ethnic people rapidly integrate into society while honoring and preserving their proud heritage; approximately 200 people are served by the Institute each day; and

WHEREAS, The International Institute of Buffalo strives to assist refugees and immigrants overcome language and cultural barriers so they become self-sufficient, productive members of the community through interpretation and translation services, educational programs, language classes and legal assistance with citizenship concerns; and

WHEREAS, The Institute also diligently works to promote global education and international connections throughout Western New York; and

WHEREAS, The success of the International Institute is in direct correlation to the efforts of its Executive Director Eva Hassett, and staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the institution and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Western New York, Erie County, and City of Buffalo, and its people continue to welcome refugees and make resources available for refugees and their families to lead dignified lives, and achieve

security in personhood and to follow life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the International Institute of Buffalo; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Eva Hassett, Executive Director, International Institute of Buffalo.