

2013-J921

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Older Adults Technology Services upon the occasion of opening the Senior Planet Exploration Center

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, It is the tradition of this Legislative Body to recognize those organizations which faithfully serve the needs of senior citizens with respect and a compassionate commitment to enhancing the quality of life of the senior community; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Older Adults Technology Services upon the occasion of opening the Senior Planet Exploration Center at 127 West 25th Street, New York, New York, in January of 2013; it is the first and only center of its kind in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Adults over the age of 65 comprise the fastest growing demographic in America; despite the rapidly accelerating integration of technology into every facet of daily life, nearly half of this population has never even accessed the Internet; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing that the potentially boundless social benefits of technology would continue to be denied to seniors without appropriate and proactive intervention, Thomas Kamber, Ph.D., founded Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) in 2004, as a safe learning space for seniors at all levels of technological comprehension; and

WHEREAS, OATS provides thousands of seniors a range of programs and services, from computer basics and social networking to Introduction to the iPad, via more than 23 technology labs in local senior centers throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, In this age of digital technology and social networking, Older Adults Technology Services' training allows its students to stay connected to family, friends, and community and, most crucially, to remain competitive in the job market; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, OATS developed Senior Planet, a digital community

created specifically for older adults with information about popular events and enrichment programs, tech tips, health and wellness resources, and a forum for weighing in on current affairs; and WHEREAS, The Senior Planet Learning Center is an innovative 2,700 square foot tech space serving those 60 and older; it features a state of the art computer lab, 23 high-end workstations, a studio for smart-phone and tablet training, video conferencing pods, a video gaming area and an open space for curated exhibitions, presentations, and classes; and

WHEREAS, The opening of the Senior Planet Learning Center fully realizes the vision of its founder to engage, train, and support older adults in using technology to improve their quality of life and enhance their social and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those responsive and visionary organizations that enhance and promote the well-being of our senior citizens, whose wisdom, labor and sacrifice helped to shape and strengthen the character of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Older Adults Technology Services is such an organization; for nearly 10 years it has been dedicated to ensuring that New York State's older adults have the tools they need to develop to their fullest potential and, in so doing, has set a standard of excellence to be emulated by others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Older Adults Technology Services upon the occasion of opening the Senior Planet Exploration Center in New York City; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Older Adults Technology Services.