

2023-J1503

Senate Resolution No. 1503

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 25th Anniversary of Abraham
House on November 3, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Abraham House on Friday, November 3, 2023, to be celebrated at the Double Tree by Hilton of Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Abraham House is designed to care for individuals who have reached the end of curative therapy options; this extraordinary organization provides personal care, based closely on the model of caring for a loved one at home, and welcomes all individuals regardless of diagnosis, gender, religion, race, or financial status; and

WHEREAS, Abraham House was established in 1998, when the Utica property was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Abraham L. Shaheen for the purpose of caring for those who are dying; and

WHEREAS, Staying true to the promise that a young Dr. Abraham L. Shaheen made to his father to "be a doctor for the people and not a

doctor for the money," Abraham House was founded with the intent that its guests and families would not be charged for services; and

WHEREAS, Two decades later, Abraham House continues to honor that promise, relying solely on donations, fundraising and grants to ensure the continued success; and

WHEREAS, Structured based on the model of a family caring for a loved one's needs in a home setting, Abraham House offers around the clock health and hygienic care via its surrogate caregivers, relieving families of the responsibility of providing care for their loved one so they may focus on the remaining time they have together; and

WHEREAS, During its formative years, Abraham House was run by Reverend Frederick Daley and the Sisters of St. Joseph, primarily caring for those who were dying from AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Today, Abraham House cares for an equal number of men and women, ranging in age from 21-99; admission is prioritized based on need and preference is given to those who are in need of the highest level of care; and

WHEREAS, In September of 2019, Abraham House Rome, a 6-bed home located on the corner of Washington and Thomas streets, officially opened. Formerly known as the Rome Home, a facility for the elderly, the property was donated in 2017 to provide end of life care for the residents of Rome, New York and neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, Abraham House provides its terminally ill guests and their families a safe and loving home with all the support needed for dignified end-of-life care, free of any financial burdens; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 25-year history, Abraham House has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of Abraham House is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff and volunteers, 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 organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Abraham House on November 3, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Abraham House, of Utica and Rome, New York.