

2009-J2284

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Winifred B. Swenson, 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, Winifred B. "Winnie" Swenson, a lifetime resident of Cornwall, New York, died on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, She was born in Florida, New York, on October 17, 1915, to the late Louis A. Schriebeis and Anna E. Gleischner; and

WHEREAS, A parishioner of St. Thomas of Canterbury Church in Cornwall, New York, Winifred B. Swenson graduated from Cornwall High School and

loved to reflect on her State Championship Basketball career at CHS; and

WHEREAS, Winifred B. Swenson continued her studies at NYU and obtained her Broker's License; she married her darling husband, Harold C. Swenson on October 13, 1940; and

WHEREAS, After graduating in 1935, Winifred B. Swenson began her insurance career serving as secretary to William T. Wilson of the New York Life Insurance Company; subsequently, he began his own agency, W.T. Wilson, Inc., in 1941, and she became an officer and broker in his business and received one share of stock; four years later, the agency became W.A. Mannheim, Inc. and Winifred was made a full partner receiving 51% of the shares; and

WHEREAS, On June 5, 1955, she achieved her goal and named her company Winifred Swenson Insurance; her motto became "big enough to serve you, small enough to know you" which held true to her retirement; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer within the insurance industry, Winifred B. Swenson became the first woman agent appointed out of the Kemper Group, Syracuse Office; she was a member of the President's Club for many years, as well as a preferred agent designated as a partnership agency; and

WHEREAS, In October of 1985, Winifred B. Swenson celebrated her 50th Anniversary in the insurance industry; she was an Insurance and Real Estate Broker, as well as a Notary Public and proudly maintained all of

her licenses; and

WHEREAS, She distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, She was the recipient of the Insurance Professional of the Year Award by the Insurance Professionals of Orange County, the Federation of New York Insurance Professionals, Inc., the Independent Insurance Agents Association of New York, Inc., and the Professional Insurance Agents of New York; furthermore, she holds the FIPC designation which was presented in recognition of her professionalism and dedication to the insurance industry; and

WHEREAS, Winifred B. Swenson's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, She was an active member in numerous clubs and organizations such as: the Cornwall High School Alumni Association; Charter Member, Highland Engine No. 1 Ladies Auxiliary; Board of Fire Commissioners (first woman appointed to board); Charter Member, Cornwall Businessmen's Association; Treasurer and Board Member, Greater Cornwall Association; sponsor for the Museum of Hudson Highlands; Director of the Zonta Club of Newburgh International Association of Business & Professional Women; Chairperson, Battered Women Committee; member of Development Committee -

Cornwall Hospital; and an original member of Cornwall July 4th Celebration Committee; and

WHEREAS, Winifred B. Swenson also had the honor of serving as the Grand Marshal in the Annual Parade as well as Chairperson for many community fund drives including the United Way, the Cancer Society, the Heart Association, and the March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Harold C. Swenson; a sister, Mildred Gayton; niece, Stephanie Sherman; and great niece, Jodi Gayton Lasala; Winifred B. Swenson is survived by her best friend and caregiver, Jean Bouton; nieces, Constance White, Gwendolyn Reichenberger and her friend, Charles Lind, Audrey Armendarez and her husband, Jose, Melanie Gayton, and Theresa Woznick and her husband, Charles; nephews, Robert Gayton and his wife, Sandra, Stephen Gayton and his wife, Carol, David Gayton and fiancée, Annette Mistretta, Richard Gayton and friend, Carrie Ferguson, and Edward Gayton; as well as 22 great, 31 great-great,

and four great-great-great nieces and nephews; and
WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of
compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Winifred B. Swenson 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 Winifred B. Swenson, 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 Winifred B. Swenson.