

2009-J3456

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher upon the occasion of receiving the Third Age Achievement Award in the category of Business from the Senior Services of Albany Foundation on November 17, 2009

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the senior citizens of the Empire State who, as they reach the fullness of years, continue to be active and vital participants in the life of their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher upon the occasion of receiving the Third Age Achievement Award in the category of Business from the Senior Services of Albany Foundation on November 17, 2009; and

WHEREAS, A native of Zurich, Switzerland, Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher came to the United States 50 years ago, began a multi-million dollar business with 48 cents and continues to live the American dream today; she currently resides in Waterford, New York, near the location of her factory/store, Ursula of Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher began her business in New York City, creating hats for Henri Bendel and Saks Fifth Avenue; in 1965, romance took her to Upstate New York, where her first dress making venture was born in Schenectady with 15-20 employees; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, Ursula of Switzerland was founded, and later incorporated in 1969; at the same time, Ursula of Switzerland, Inc. retail shops opened with four locations in Albany, Schenectady, Troy, and Saratoga; in 1972, the wholesale business moved to an historic 19th century former ribbon factory on the banks of the Hudson / Mohawk Rivers in Waterford; and

WHEREAS, Ursula of Switzerland started focusing mainly on mom and pop stores and other specialty stores in 1994, and separates and informal bridal dresses were added to the line over the years; and

WHEREAS, An internationally acclaimed designer, Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher is a visionary businesswoman whose focus on mother-of-the-bride

has found her a winning niche in over 5000 better specialty stores and major clientele, including Macy's, Lord and Taylor, Dillard's, Bloomingdale's, Nordstrom's and Dayton-Hudson, as well as beyond America's borders to Mexico, Canada, England and Australia; and WHEREAS, Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher is committed to producing her garments in the United States, and understands the local retail market, pricing her garments below typical retail and offering senior discounts; the Ursula of Switzerland, Inc.'s "Made in America" collections are renowned internationally for the consistent quality, fit, styling and value along with the recognizable aura of femininity and elegance; and WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when seniors of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher upon the occasion of receiving the Third Age Achievement Award in the category of Business from the Senior Services of Albany Foundation on November 17, 2009, and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher.