

2009-J4153

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rita Hollenga upon the occasion of being honored on March 11, 2010, in conjunction with Women's History Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York is home to countless women who have contributed to the advancement of our culture through both their traditional and non-traditional roles in society; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those illustrious women within the Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who inspire others through their model citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rita Hollenga upon the occasion of being honored on Thursday, March 11, 2010, in conjunction with Women's History Month in the State of New York, at a special event to be held at the Bay Ridge Manor, Bay Ridge, New York; and

WHEREAS, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of New York State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the State of New York officially sets aside time to recognize the unique contributions that women have made to this great Empire State and its society; and

WHEREAS, Rita Hollenga has continually demonstrated extreme competence, extraordinary intelligence and diligent leadership in her unwavering service to her community and profession; and

WHEREAS, Born in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Rita Hollenga came to the United States with her husband in 1956; and

WHEREAS, After her arrival in the United States, Rita Hollenga worked as a bilingual secretary for the Netherland Line Steamship Company and then at the Collegiate Church Corporation, from which she retired after 25 years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, After her retirement, Rita Hollenga continued to work at Collegiate Church Corporation as a consultant and archivist, translating

early 17th century Dutch records into English; one of the many results from her hard work is a newly published book entitled LIBER A, which covers early Dutch historical records (1628-1701) held by the Collegiate Church of New York; and

WHEREAS, A woman of singular distinction, Rita Hollenga has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and WHEREAS, Rita Hollenga has been a devoted member of the New Utrecht Reformed Church for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Rita Hollenga's life at New Utrecht Church has been about leadership, dedication and service; she has held the title and responsibility of VP of Consistory over the course of nine years and has also served as the Treasurer of the Church since 2008; moreover, she is the Treasurer of the New Utrecht Pole Association, a group established in 1908, for the care and upkeep of the last remaining liberty pole; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Rita Hollenga took positions of leadership for the Women's Group at New Utrecht, as President of Women for Christian Service and prior to that as Secretary and Vice President; she also served for 10 years as Treasurer for the Brooklyn Women's Classical, the Reformed Church Women's organization which is part of the Brooklyn Classis; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, Rita Hollenga served a two-year term as President of the Brooklyn Classis of the Reformed Church in America; the

Brooklyn Classis enforces the requirement of the Government of the Reformed Church in America and for all enrolled ministers and elder delegates who represent the 14 churches in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the Sanctuary of New Utrecht Reformed Church is undergoing restoration and renovation; Rita Hollenga is a member of the committee working closely with the architects and engineers on this historical effort; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Rita Hollenga has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Albert, and their three children, Dane, Carla and Marc, as well as their five grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Rita Hollenga, and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Rita Hollenga upon the occasion of being honored on March 11, 2010, in conjunction with Women's History Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rita Hollenga.