

## 2009-J4782

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Ted DeSoyza as she is honored by the WESPAC Foundation at its 28th Annual Awards Dinner on April 29, 2010

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Ted DeSoyza as she is honored by the WESPAC Foundation at its 28th Annual Awards Dinner, to be held at the Women's Club in White Plains, New York on Thursday, April 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Established to support the work of the Westchester People's Action Coalition (WESPAC), the WESPAC Foundation has been the leading force in Westchester County for peace and justice work for over three decades; and

WHEREAS, Each year at its Annual Awards Dinner WESPAC recognizes the work of a few local individuals who have done outstanding work for social justice and this year proudly honors Ted DeSoyza for her lifelong work advocating for children, people with disabilities and a more peaceful world; and

WHEREAS, Ted DeSoyza was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 11, 1928 to Italian immigrants who had come to the United States as children; she entered the Franciscan Sisters of Mill Hill Convent in London in 1949 at the age of 21; she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Fordham University and taught Primary grades in Harlem as well as in Virginia and Pennsylvania for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, She left the convent in 1964 and in 1971, after giving birth to Miriam, who had Down Syndrome, Ted DeSoyza and her late husband Dallas founded two schools in the Bronx for infants, toddlers, and pre-school children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Ted DeSoyza has been very active in social justice and the peace movement in Westchester County and is an inspiration to countless

numbers of activists; part of her social justice work includes working with gangs on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, serving as an advisor for CHILD CARE, INC., and teaching English as a Second Language at the Taconic Correctional Facility in Bedford and at the Adult Learning Center in New Rochelle for three years; 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 Ted DeSoyza as she is honored by the WESPAC Foundation at its 28th Annual Awards Dinner on April 29, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ted DeSoyza.