

2011-J1309

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring The Honorable Norma S. Gonsalves upon the occasion of being designated as recipient of the Visionary Award at the Sixth Annual Prairie Benefit commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Friends of Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor The Honorable Norma S. Gonsalves upon the occasion of being designated as recipient of the Visionary Award at the Sixth Annual Prairie Benefit commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Friends of Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at the organization's Challenge 2011 event, to be held on Friday, April 29, 2011, at the Hofstra University Club David S. Mack Hall; and

WHEREAS, The seeds have been sown for the Hempstead Plains Educational Center to be erected on the plains for future generations; the Center is a green sustainable building and landscape design that compliments and enhances the historic nineteen acre prairie remnant at Nassau Community College; and

WHEREAS, An educator for 25 years in the New York City school system, Norma S. Gonsalves is the Founder and Immediate Past President of the Council of East Meadow Community Organizations (CEMCO); currently she is the Project Director for Crime Watch and Civilian Patrol and serves as a

delegate to CEMCO from the Wenwood Oaks Civic Association; and

WHEREAS, Norma S. Gonsalves is a member of the East Meadow Chamber of Commerce, the Edward J. Speno Lodge No. 2568 Order Sons of Italy in America, and Kiwanis Club of East Meadow; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Norma S. Gonsalves is a former spokesperson for the Nassau County Correctional Facility Advisory Committee and a former member of the Town of Hempstead Solid Waste Advisory Committee; she has served as Chairperson of the East Meadow Bicentennial Committee, and is a former PTA Units president and PTA Council president, as well as a former UFT Executive Board chapter member; and

WHEREAS, Among her many awards, Norma S. Gonsalves has received the: 2009 Women of Distinction Award, 2007 Nassau University Medical Center Heroes in Health Award, Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation Award, and the Diamond Anton J. Kaiser Foundation Fellow Award from the Kiwanis Club of East Meadow; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Norma S. Gonsalves has received the 2002 Golden Heart Award from the Association for Children for the Enforcement of Support, the 1999 Woman of the Year Award from the East Meadow Chamber of Commerce, the NEWSDAY 1992 Volunteer Award and the 1976 Woman of the Year Award from the East Meadow Chamber of Commerce as its Bicentennial Chairperson; and

WHEREAS, A resident of East Meadow, New York, Norma S. Gonsalves received her Bachelor of Arts degree in history from St. Joseph's College for Women, and her Master of Arts degree from Hunter College and Brooklyn College; she is also a graduate of the Nassau County Citizens Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, John, as well as her three children; all of whom feel privileged to be part of her life

and rejoice in her achievements; together, Norma and John are the proud grandparents of three grandsons and a granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her professional and communi-

ty service, a period of constructive involvement, Norma S. Gonsalves has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues, family and friends; and WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Norma S. Gonsalves has displayed throughout her life; 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 recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor The Honorable Norma S. Gonsalves upon the occasion of being designated as recipient of the Visionary Award at the Sixth Annual Prairie Benefit commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Friends of Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Norma S. Gonsalves.