

2011-K840

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Matilda Lotito Farrell upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, Matilda Lotito was born on August 10, 1911, in Patchogue, New York; and

WHEREAS, To mark this auspicious occasion, Matilda Lotito Farrell celebrated her milestone birthday at the Perabell Restaurant in Patchogue on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, surrounded by her extended family and warm circle of friends; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Italian immigrants, Louis Lotito and Amelia Reda, Matilda Lotito Farrell was one of nine children; and

WHEREAS, In 1932, when she was 21 years old, Matilda Lotito met her future husband Harold Farrell while attending her brother's wedding; the happy couple was soon married and together they were blessed with three wonderful children, June, Thomas, and Michelle, and a happy home at 68 Jayne Avenue in Patchogue; Matilda Lotito Farrell still resides in the house today; and

WHEREAS, Matilda Lotito Farrell lived through seven wars and took part in electing eighteen United States Presidents; she was only nine years old when the 19th Amendment was passed on August 26, 1920, giving American women the right to vote; in 1932, at the age of 21, she became the first woman of her family's generation to vote in a United States election; and

WHEREAS, A homemaker while her children were growing up, Matilda Lotito Farrell's house was always a welcome place for her children and their friends; long before the civil rights enlightenment and resulting legislation, there were children of all shapes, sizes, and colors at her home; and

WHEREAS, In 1947, at the age of 36, Matilda Lotito Farrell joined the

workforce; she was first employed by the LONG ISLAND ADVANCE NEWSPAPER as a proofreader, a position she loved; in 1952, she became a Secretary for a local Lincoln Mercury dealership; a few years later, she worked at the Teachers Federal Credit Union, and in 1962, she was hired as a Medical Secretary for Dr. Abraham Cohen, Orthopedic Surgeon, a position in which she remained until her retirement in 1988, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, A strong woman and free thinker, Matilda Lotito Farrell was always interested in what was going on in the world around her; she respected American leaders like the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, and Presidents like Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Bill Clinton; she always kept herself current on worldly issues important to herself and her family; and

WHEREAS, A longtime congregant of St. Francis deSales Roman Catholic Church, Matilda Lotito Farrell also belonged to the Patchogue Historical Society, the Blue Point Seniors, and St. Francis deSales Adult Club; and WHEREAS, A lover of both baseball and football, Matilda Lotito Farrell also enjoys word puzzles, playing Scrabble, and reading, and credits these hobbies for keeping her brain sharp; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her three children, 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews, all of whom feel privileged to be part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished woman has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, This beloved woman has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which come only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Matilda Lotito Farrell upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Matilda Lotito Farrell.