

2011-J3394

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of The Retreat, East Hampton, New York, to be celebrated March 1, 2012

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those agencies in our community that help to protect community members and educate the public on issues of importance to everyone; and

WHEREAS, Primary among such institutions are those who, year after year, diligently seek to empower those in need, promote a culture of equality and respect, and assist families in crisis; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of The Retreat, East Hampton, New York, to be celebrated at Race Lane Restaurant and Bar, East Hampton, New York, on Thursday, March 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, The Retreat Domestic Violence Services, where violence ends and hope begins, has offered hope, inspiration, support and courage to the eastern Long Island community; and

WHEREAS, Its mission is to provide safety, shelter and support for victims of domestic abuse and to break the cycle of family violence; and

WHEREAS, One in four women are victims of domestic violence and more than 50% of their children are too; domestic violence affects many people, including friends, relatives, women and children, maybe even you; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, The Retreat has served as a safe haven for families in crisis; this vital organization provides numerous services to protect victims, provide safety and help individuals get back on their feet and live productive lives; and

WHEREAS, The Retreat offers a wide array of direct services to crime victims on Long Island, including five core services: Crisis Hotline, Domestic Violence Shelter, Legal Advocacy, Counseling, and Domestic Violence Prevention Education; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, the shelter, with the help of 123 generous volunteers, served 70 women and 64 children; provided 3,053 counseling

services which served 310 clients, including children; the Advocacy program served 186 clients and provided 1,064 legal accompaniment services; offered 5,932 services of information, referrals, and personal advocacy to 473 clients; provided support, information, and referrals to 3,162 hotline callers; received 2,690 police reports and sent letters to all identified victims of abuse offering support and services; reached 2,038 students with the Retreat's in-school violence prevention education programs, and educators provided a total of 149 sessions to local schools; provided community education to 2,748 individuals; and assessed and educated 35 batterers to take responsibility for their abusive behavior and learn new strategies to cope with relationship issues; and WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of The Retreat, East Hampton, New York, to be celebrated March 1, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Retreat.