

2011-J4500

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Ellen L. Wiley 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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Ellen L. Wiley upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Born on May 9, 1912, Ellen L. Wiley is a descendant of a family that settled in the Pittstown, New York, in late 1700s; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Lansingburgh High School and the Pratt Institute in New York City, Ellen L. Wiley began her career as an art teacher in January of 1937, at the South Glens Falls Central School; and

WHEREAS, Ellen L. Wiley spent one year at the Notonville One Room School teaching eight different grades, followed by a position at the Redhook Central School; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, Ellen L. Wiley began working at Hoosic Valley Central School as its first full-time art teacher; she remained there until her retirement in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Ellen L. Wiley lives on the historic Sherman farmstead that was established by her ancestors over 200 years ago; it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is considered one of the most intact historic farmsteads in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Ellen L. Wiley has dedicated years of her life to promoting appreciation and preservation of history, specifically in Pittstown; and

WHEREAS, A founding member of the Pittstown Historical Society, Ellen L. Wiley has served as Associate Pittstown Town Historian, Trustee of the Pittstown Historical Society, and most recently as Pittstown Town

Historian; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her years of service, Ellen L. Wiley has organized multiple tours and exhibits on the history of Pittstown, and has been instrumental in numerous preservation projects; and

WHEREAS, In addition to registering her family farm on the National Register of Historic Places, Ellen L. Wiley has helped protect the 123-acre Sherman Farm with the donation of a conservation easement to the Agricultural Stewardship Association; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Ellen L. Wiley and co-owner, Paul Wiley, took a leadership role in the land conservation movement in Rensselaer County, by becoming one of the first working farms in the County to be conserved; and

WHEREAS, Ellen L. Wiley co-authored, with Beryl Herrington and Evelyn Bornt, a hard cover book, PITTSTOWN THROUGH THE YEARS, on the history of Pittstown; and

WHEREAS, Ellen L. Wiley has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the Hart-Cluett Award by Rensselaer County Historical Society, and a Proclamation by Rensselaer County Legislature for her outstanding contributions to Rensselaer County; 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 comes 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 Ellen L. Wiley upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ellen L. Wiley.