

2013-J436

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Charlotte Smallwood-Cook, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Smallwood-Cook of Batavia, New York died on Saturday, January 26, 2013, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Licht was born in Union Springs, New York, on Cayuga Lake, on January 24, 1923; her father was a doctor, her mother a nurse; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Smallwood-Cook graduated from Cornell, where she met her first husband; when he went to work in New York City, she went to Columbia Law School, after which the couple moved to Warsaw, New York; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Smallwood-Cook distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Smallwood, as she was then known, was 26 in November 1949 when, running as a Republican in a conservative region, she won a landslide victory, earning a three-year term as district attorney in rural Wyoming County, southeast of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, In this role, it is believed that Charlotte Smallwood-Cook became the first woman elected as a district attorney in New York State; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure, Charlotte Smallwood-Cook successfully prosecuted the county's first capital murder case in 40 years and argued the case before the Court of Appeals, which affirmed the verdict; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Smallwood-Cook's husband and law partner, Edward Smallwood, died in 1952; she did not run for re-election but returned to private practice; and

WHEREAS, She later married Frederick S. Cook, who died in 1987; in addition to her daughter, who is known as Suki, she is survived by a

son, Edward C. Smallwood; five grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and numerous stepchildren, step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Smallwood-Cook's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Charlotte Smallwood-Cook leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Charlotte Smallwood-Cook, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Charlotte Smallwood-Cook.