

## 2013-K578

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College, and Korean American Civic Empowerment for their devoted work on behalf of Comfort Women

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College, and Korean American Civic Empowerment for their devoted work on behalf of Comfort Women; and

WHEREAS, In 1937, over 200,000 teenage girls were forced into sexual slavery by the invading Japanese armies; these young women, referred to as Comfort Women, were sent throughout Asia accompanying these soldiers; and

WHEREAS, At the end of World War II, nearly 100,000 had perished; these survivors sought justice, but were met with stern statements of denial; while these Comfort Women survivors are dwindling, they still seek recognition and justice for what was perpetrated against them; and

WHEREAS, To assist them in their quest for justice, the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Center's Asian Internship Justice Program familiarizes its students with the injustices brought upon the Asian population during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Nine students at Queensborough Community College's Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives completed

their Asian Internship Project which consisted of interviews of actual "Comfort Women" survivors in Korea via Skype; and

WHEREAS, The nine 2013 Student Interns were: Zeba Natasha Babar, Alexander Crombez, Ashley Gee, Lauren Hussey, Daniella Lampone, Lee Kwan Li, Weiwu Li, Jialong Xie, and Ming Ming Zhou; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the Members of Korean American Civic Empowerment (KACE), the Asian Social Justice Interns of the Kupferberg Holocaust Center at Queensborough Community College, and the residents of this great Empire State is to seek justice for the Korean Comfort Women; and

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Dr. Diane B. Call, President of Queensborough Community College and Dr. Arthur Flug, Executive Director of the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, and Dongchan Kim, President of Korean American Civic Empowerment, the Asian Social Justice Interns have striven mightily and successfully in conducting an instructional program that has reminded the world of the tragedy and of the Comfort Women of Korea; and

WHEREAS, Incorporating the guide words of the Holocaust, Never Forget, these interns have emerged not only as students knowledgeable of this horrific issue that has plagued these survivors for more than seven decades, but have emerged as spokespersons for social justice for all members of their generation; and

WHEREAS, The outstanding group of Queensborough Community College students embodying the diverse cultural diversity of the school's more than 150 nationalities speaking 62 distinct languages bound together with a fervent commitment for social justice for the members of their generation and volunteered to study the issue of the Comfort Women, and in doing so, have spread much needed insight and a distinct call for justice far beyond the college campus; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when students and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and 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 Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College, and Korean American Civic Empowerment for their devoted work on behalf of Comfort Women; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College, Korean American Civic Empowerment, and the nine aforementioned student interns.