

## 2015-J206

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN for her outstanding advocacy and promotion of Lymphedema awareness

WHEREAS, In honor of National Lymphedema Network's D-Day on March 6, 2015, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN, a dedicated clinician, educator and advocate for Lymphedema awareness and education; and

WHEREAS, This particular day brings awareness to this, oftentimes, debilitating condition and helps find strength through collective celebration; it is also set aside to honor inspirational lymphedema patients and exceptional healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN began her advocacy in lymphedema in 1988 as the founder of the National Lymphedema Network (NLN); since that time, she has been the President of the NLN; and

WHEREAS, Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN received her nursing degree from the University of Utrecht in Holland; in 1967, she immigrated to the United States, living in New York City and working in nursing at Cornell University in New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, she opened the first lymphedema clinic in the United States (the Aurora Lymphedema Clinic in San Francisco) and in 1988, she founded the National Lymphedema Network (NLN), an internationally recognized non-profit organization, now 2000 members strong with 350 affiliated clinics, many in New York; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of President Thiadens since its inception, NLN is dedicated to providing education and awareness to lymphedema patients, health care professionals, and the general public; in addition, this vital organization promotes research into the causes, prevention and treatment of lymphedema; and

WHEREAS, The NLN has an 800 hotline, and provides support and educa-

tion to patients and the general public and refers patients each day to affiliated clinics; and

WHEREAS, An active nurse and patient advocate, Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN has organized 11 successful international professional conferences on lymphedema and lymphatic disorders; she has been an oncology nurse for over 25 years, a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, and the founder of The Lymphedema Management Special Interest Group; and

WHEREAS, She is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences and key collaborator in various lymphedema studies; and

WHEREAS, Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN is the managing editor of Lymphlink, the official quarterly 40 page NLN Journal; she is also a member of the NLN Medical Advisory and Research Committees; and

WHEREAS, Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN founded Lymphedema D-Day in 1994, and since that time, hundreds of special patients and clinicians have been recognized as a D-Day recipient; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN created the Marilyn Westbrook Garment Fund (MWGF) a service which provides free compression garments for underserved lymphedema patients; as of today, 800 patients have received garments and ultimately changed their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, The NLN supports Position Papers regarding risk reduction, screening and early detection, exercise, diagnosis and treatment; these vital papers are used among all disciplines, including cancer and rehab centers; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 honor Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN for her outstanding advocacy and promotion of Lymphedema awareness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Saskia R. J. Thiadens, RN.