

2015-J3335

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Mary Jane Smith upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Community Hero Award by Unity House of Troy, New York

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Smith has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mary Jane Smith upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Community Hero Award to be celebrated on Friday, February 12, 2016, at the Unity House of Troy Gala at Pat's Barn, Rensselaer Technology Park, Rensselaer, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Community Hero Award recognizes the achievements, commitment and dedication of individuals who go above and beyond for their institutions and community performing acts of goodwill and kindness; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Smith, a former Sister of St. Joseph, co-founded Unity House in 1971, after teaching in the Catholic school systems for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, As the organization's Executive Director for 20 years, Mary Jane Smith's leadership was instrumental in developing programs for people living in poverty, adults living with mental illness, victims of domestic violence, and children with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman has served on many boards which benefitted not only the disadvantaged people of the Capital District, but also the community-at-large and the mental health population of the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Smith has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Smith served on the first AIDS Council of Albany and also served in board capacities for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and Hospice of Rensselaer County; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Mary Jane Smith has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor and has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues, family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Smith has exhibited compassion, humility and unselfish dedication in everything she has done and continues to do for the disenfranchised members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Mary Jane Smith has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mary Jane Smith upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Community Hero Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mary Jane Smith.