

2015-J3365

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Lillian Schoonmaker 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, Lillian McEwan was born on November 25, 1915, on her family farm in Pine Bush, New York; she worked hard to help support her family, whether it was laboring in a boarding house or helping her parents run the farm; and

WHEREAS, In spite of the arduous work she did at both the boarding house and at home, Lillian Schoonmaker remembers plenty of fun; she and her sisters, Janette and Marietta, and her brother, John, used to gallop on their two horses, ice skate on the pond, ride sleds, and race down the hills using homemade snow skis; and

WHEREAS, For a time, Lillian Schoonmaker left the farm during the week, and held a position at a clothing store in Middletown, New York; and

WHEREAS, On February 18, 1940, Lillian Schoonmaker, at the age of 25, married Spencer Schoonmaker; together, the couple happily raised and nurtured two daughters, Sharon and Beverly, in Gardiner, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Schoonmaker family lived and worked on their own 260 acre farm which they had inherited from Spencer Schoonmaker's parents; Lillian Schoonmaker diligently toiled in her huge garden, producing all the vegetables needed to feed her own growing family and her in-laws; she canned and froze the bounty so they would have plenty to carry them through the winter; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Lillian Schoonmaker cooked all the meals,

cleaned the house, did the mowing, cared for her daughters, kept and slaughtered the chickens, and did the landscaping; a tireless worker, she also made clothes and curtains, and crocheted, knitted and quilted; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to her community, Lillian Schoonmaker was a member of the Reformed Church of Shawangunk, Wallkill, New York, where she enthusiastically assisted with Church Senior Lunches; in addition, she was a vital participant of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Shawangunk Valley Fire Company; and

WHEREAS, Happy-go-lucky Lillian Schoonmaker has lived a wonderful and fulfilling life; today, she enjoys spending time with her family, crocheting, solving Word Search puzzles, and most importantly, laughing; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Lillian Schoonmaker has developed a list of her favorite life lessons, which she attributes to her good health and happiness; they include: when you go out in the garden, take your children with you; be a good and friendly neighbor; walk; keep yourself busy with productive things; instill a good work ethic in your children; do not complain and take things as they come; do not splurge on a big wedding; do not get surgery for vanity's sake; live without regrets; and laugh, and then laugh some more; and finally, when your time comes, you go, that is it; 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 recog-

nize 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 Lillian Schoonmaker upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lillian Schoonmaker.