

2015-J4494

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Irene Kellish upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those individuals whose lives have been filled with many remarkable experiences and shared with many individuals who love and respect them; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Irene Kellish upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday; to celebrate this milestone, a centennial birthday party will be held in her honor hosted by her family at the Pompey Rod and Gun Club on June 18, 2016, featuring live polka music and other great entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Irene was born on June 12, 1916, in the City of Syracuse, to Ignatius and Sarafinka Lelakowski; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in Syracuse, Irene peddled newspapers with her brother, Theodore Lelakowski, and sister, Genevive Lelakowski Delcioppo, in their neighborhood along West Genesee Street, which was then known as "Automobile Row"; and

WHEREAS, Irene was educated by the nuns at the School at Sacred Heart Church in Syracuse, known today as the Basilica of the Sacred Heart; and

WHEREAS, Irene met the love of her life at her 16th birthday party in June of 1932, when John Kellish was selected to play the fiddle in the band at her party; and

WHEREAS, On June 26, 1937, Irene and John Kellish were married at Immaculate Conception Church in Pompey, New York; together, they raised their outstanding son, Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Irene Kellish was employed as a sewing machine factory worker at Brown Lipe Chapin on Geddes Street until 1943; she was known as one of the original "Rosie the Riveters" in charge of the rivet headlight

trim on the headlights for General Motors vehicles; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, Irene Kellish went to work at New Process Gear until she retired 32 years later on December 31, 1975; and

WHEREAS, According to those she trained at New Process Gear, Irene Kellish was a dedicated employee; she always carried a notebook which was filled with calculations to make sure the machine was running at full capacity; and

WHEREAS, During her time on the line at New Process Gear, Irene Kellish was involved in a machinery accident which resulted in the loss of her left pinky finger, but, due to her dedication, and strong work ethic, she returned to work the following day; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her full and interesting life, Irene Kellish always tried to stay involved in church functions, especially community picnics; she also became involved in the Fabius-Pompey Senior Citizens Club and helped raise funds for trips; and

WHEREAS, Irene Kellish has remained ready to give a hand for any community project to benefit neighbors and groups; throughout the years she has become known as the "Cookie Lady" for the thousands of pounds of cookies she has made and sold for all occasions; and

WHEREAS, Irene Kellish has stayed physically active throughout her long life by cooking, gardening, and working on her family's farm; this remarkable woman still mowed her lawn well into her late 80s; the only thing she wanted for her 80th birthday was a 5 horsepower lawn mower; and

WHEREAS, For the past 100 years, Irene Kellish has witnessed countless events, innovations and achievements in this country, while personally contributing to the excellence of this Empire State and enriching the lives of so many people around her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and salute Irene Kellish upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Irene Kellish.