

## 2015-J4580

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan upon the occasion of her retirement after 33 years of distinguished service to the South Buffalo Community Table

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan upon the occasion of her retirement after 33 years of distinguished service to the South Buffalo Community Table; and

WHEREAS, For over three decades, the South Buffalo Community Table has been providing food and fellowship to the hungry and less fortunate members of its community; the only soup kitchen located in South Buffalo, the organization serves dinner to hungry people seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, As a Sister of Mercy, Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan has been ministering to thousands of people for 65 years, all of whom have been touched by her care, concern and compassionate spirit; and

WHEREAS, Mary Celeste O'Bryan and her 11 brothers and sisters grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, and then Jamestown, New York, with her loving parents Paul and Mary Bernadette O'Bryan; the spiritual family attended daily Mass and prayed together every evening; and

WHEREAS, As a child, Mary Celeste O'Bryan learned about responsibility and the give-and-take that comes with being a member of a large family; and

WHEREAS, After entering the Sisters of Mercy in September of 1950 Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan earned her Bachelor's degree in Education

from Medaille College and her Master's degree in Education from Buffalo State College; and

WHEREAS, Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan furthered her education by taking additional classes at Canisius College, St. Bonaventure University and Christ the King Seminary; and

WHEREAS, For the next 30 years, Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan was employed in a number of South Buffalo, New York, schools as well as educational institutions in Holley, Mindanao, Philippines, Jamestown, Niagara Falls, Olean, West Seneca, Orchard Park and Wellsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, During a sabbatical, Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan volunteered her time and energies at the St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen on Main Street in Buffalo; at the same time, she was asked to represent the Sisters of Mercy at the South Buffalo Ecumenical Association meetings and discovered that the organization was exploring the possibility of starting a South Buffalo Soup Kitchen; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1983, Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan accepted the esteemed rank of Director of the South Buffalo Community Table, presently located at the Good Shepherd Baptist Church; after 33 years of dedicated service, she will officially retire from this position in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Under her luminous leadership, the South Buffalo Community Table, has grown to be one of South Buffalo's flagship organizations, serving nearly 20,000 meals every year to the homeless and needy in the area; and

WHEREAS, For 65 years, Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan has left an indelible impact on all those she serves, helping to make South Buffalo and

all of Western New York an even kinder and more welcoming place to call home; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unremitting commitment to South Buffalo, Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan was the recipient of the Woman of

Distinction Award; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan has displayed throughout her life; 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 commend Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan upon the occasion of her retirement after 33 years of distinguished service to the South Buffalo Community Table, and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sister Mary Celeste O'Bryan.