

2015-J5054

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Margaret Crocker upon the occasion of her retirement after 26 years of distinguished service to The Discovery Center of the Southern Tier

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Margaret Crocker upon the occasion of her retirement after 26 years of distinguished service to The Discovery Center of the Southern Tier, to be celebrated with a retirement party on Friday, May 20, 2016, at Vestal Hills Country Club, Binghamton, New York; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Crocker, affectionately known as "Pokey," has served as Executive Director of The Discovery Center of the Southern Tier since 1989, and will officially retire from this position on Monday, May 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Prior to her position at the Discovery Center, Margaret Crocker was the Executive Director of the Tioga County Council on the Arts; previously, she worked for 22 years at the Roberson Museum and Science Center in Binghamton, New York; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Crocker's luminous stewardship has led to a host of popular and informative exhibits in The Discovery Center; today, there are 30 play and learn exhibits, including a story garden, television weather station and a mini grocery market; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Margaret Crocker oversaw a \$1.3 million expansion project to add additional space at The Discovery Center which included classrooms and performance and exhibit space; and

WHEREAS, The Discovery Center opened at Binghamton's Christopher

Columbus School in 1984, and two years later, it moved to its current location in Ross Park on Binghamton's South Side; and

WHEREAS, The mission of The Discovery Center is to develop the intellectual, physical and emotional well-being of the children of the Southern Tier through participatory exhibits and programs; these exhibits engage the senses, challenge the mind and offer a diverse framework for discovery in the arts, sciences and humanities; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Crocker grew up on Binghamton's West Side, in a yellow farmhouse that her parents bought in 1926; she studied theater at Lake Erie College for Women and at Kenyon College in Ohio, before returning to Binghamton University to complete her college degree; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Margaret Crocker moved to North Fenton, New York, where she currently resides; she plans to spend time with family, write and travel after her much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, For nearly 30 years of outstanding leadership, Margaret Crocker rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to her community; she leaves behind a tremendous legacy at The Discovery Center; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as Executive Director, Margaret Crocker served with loyalty, honor and distinction, and was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with The Discovery Center, Margaret Crocker earned the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Margaret Crocker upon the occasion of her retirement after 26 years of distinguished service to The Discovery Center of the Southern Tier; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Margaret Crocker.