

2015-J5396

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jane Ehrlich upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Columbia County Association on May 12, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jane Ehrlich upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Columbia County Association, to be celebrated at a dinner on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at Gallagher's Steak House, Manhattan, New York; and

WHEREAS, For 22 years, Jane Ehrlich has served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Columbia Memorial Hospital, a position from which she retired in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, Jane Ehrlich always dreamt of becoming a nurse; at the young age of 16, she began working in health care when she took advantage of a program for high school juniors entering their senior years; through this vital program, she worked full-time as a nurse's aide in different areas of the hospital; and

WHEREAS, Following nursing school, Jane Ehrlich served as a clinical nurse in both New York City and Boston; after holding a position which was half clinical and half administrative, she decided that she really liked the administrative side; and

WHEREAS, This discovery led her to further her education by obtaining

her Master in Business Administration degree with a major in Health Care Administration; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Jane Ehrlich was offered the position of CEO of Columbia Memorial Hospital; at that time, the hospital was nearly bankrupt, had no parking garage or Kellner Wing, and was losing potential patients to hospitals in surrounding counties and states; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a positive attitude, Jane Ehrlich was instrumental in turning the struggling hospital around in three key areas: financial stability and performance, technology/facilities upgrades, and improved staff accommodations and morale; and

WHEREAS, Under her luminous leadership, Columbia Memorial Hospital expanded its services, constructed a larger parking garage and a medical office building, renewed facilities such as the obstetrics unit which was renamed The Family Birthplace, and added the Kellner Wing, which houses the Emergency Department and Surgical Services; in addition, the hospital became a role model for young women aspiring to leadership positions; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Columbia Memorial Hospital was brought into the 21st Century by the implementation of electronic health records, which helped with accuracy and efficiency, improving overall patient care; and

WHEREAS, After her much deserved retirement, Jane Ehrlich enjoys spending time in her lovely home, working with her horses, and toiling in her beautiful gardens; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, intellect and commitment as that demonstrated by Jane Ehrlich over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those individuals for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commend Jane Ehrlich upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Columbia County Association; and be it further

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