

## 2015-J5482

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter upon the occasion of celebrating more than 50 years of Ministry to the United Palace House of Inspiration on May 15, 2016

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter upon the occasion of celebrating more than 50 years of ministry to the United Palace House of Inspiration, to be feted at a special service and banquet on Sunday, May 15, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter, affectionately known to the United Palace family as Reverend Mrs. Ike, is the third of seven children born into a loving family in Newport News, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Education from Norfolk State College, and her Master's degree in Special Education from Boston College; and

WHEREAS, After completing her studies, Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter became an itinerant teacher for visually impaired children throughout New England; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Eula and Frederick J. Eikerenkoetter II were married; together, the dynamic couple grew the ministries of United Christian Evangelistic Association (UCEA) and The United Church of Jesus Christ For All People, simultaneously founded in Beaufort, South Caroli-

na; and

WHEREAS, While her husband pastored Miracle Temple, Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter built and managed the financial aspects of each organization while also providing ministerial leadership and development; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter discovered the fundamental philosophy that would define their spiritual teachings: to turn obstacles into opportunities, setbacks into setups, and adversities into advantages; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter and her husband moved to New York City, where they expanded their ministry, first in Harlem, then finding a permanent home in Washington Heights at the United Palace Cathedral, formerly the Loew's 175th Street Theatre; and

WHEREAS, The congregation rapidly expanded its reach worldwide through syndicated radio and television programs and has not missed a Sunday service since; thanks to the tireless efforts of both the Eikerenkoetter family and their congregation, the theater, later renamed United Palace, was preserved and saved from certain redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, Now under the leadership of their son, Xavier Eikerenkoetter, United Palace has thrived and grown into a multi-pronged community organization including United Palace House of Inspiration (UPHI), United Palace of Cultural Arts (UPCA), and United Palace Theatre (UPT); and

WHEREAS, Today, Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter continues to play an active role in the United Palace community by helping to preserve Rev. Ike Legacy Ministries, maintaining the theater, and supporting the growth of UPHI; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter serves as a spiritual leader and philanthropist dedicated to bettering not just the lives of her New York City-based congregation but also to impacting the wider world, across denominations, social classes, and ethnic identi-

ties; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter has brought to her ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting her administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished woman of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to her care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter upon the occasion of celebrating more than 50 years of Ministry to the United Palace House of Inspiration, noting her unrelenting and compassionate faith and her exemplary service to God, man, and her community, and extending to her the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Mrs. Eula Dent Eikerenkoetter.