

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Contact: Soojin Choi | 347-556-6335 | press@johnliusenate.com |

**STATE SENATOR JOHN LIU, CONGRESSWOMAN GRACE MENG ISSUE
PROCLAMATIONS TO FLUSHING HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ON HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY**

Flushing, NY - On Sunday, State Senator John Liu and Congresswoman Grace Meng joined family and friends of Holocaust survivor and Flushing resident Hanna Slome to pay tribute to her remarkable life and legacy during her 100th birthday celebration.

Born in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia in 1925, Hanna Beer (later Slome) escaped Nazi occupation in 1938. With borders sealed, Hanna was one of only 669 Czech youth transported out of Czechoslovakia thanks to the famed kindertransport arranged by Sir Nicholas Winton. She remembers riding the train to London holding and calming an infant girl in her lap. As a young teenager, she left behind her parents and the life she knew, traveling alone to England. Her parents would ultimately perish in the Holocaust.

Winton kept his wartime efforts a secret for 50 years, and was only revealed when his wife discovered a scrapbook in their attic containing meticulous records of the rescued children. Years later, he was reunited with the children he saved, now grown adults with children of their own, on the BBC television program "That's Life!"

After the war, Hanna immigrated to the United States and rebuilt her life with extraordinary determination. She married Henry Slome, a fellow immigrant and U.S. Army veteran, and together they raised two children, Jesse and Judy, on Parsons Boulevard in Flushing, where she continues to reside today.

Hanna was instrumental in helping her husband establish an international textiles business while dedicating herself to her family and community. She served as board president at Junior High School 185 and was active with the Temple Gates of Prayer. A lifelong gardener, she has made thousands of greeting cards using pressed, dried flowers that are donated and sold to benefit charitable organizations.

State Senator John Liu stated, "From a train station in Czechoslovakia to the tree-lined streets of Queens, Hanna's incredible life and legacy embodies the spirit and resilience of Flushing and all those who have overcome adversity. On her 100th birthday, surrounded by family and friends, we celebrate a life well-lived and say thank you for inspiring us with her resilience and generosity."

“I am proud to commend and recognize Hanna for a century of courage, service and inspiration,” said **U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens)** who presented Slome with an official congressional proclamation. “Her message of resilience and hope continues to inspire generations and will do so for many years to come. It is an honor and privilege to wish her a very happy 100th birthday and I send her my warmest congratulations.”

Hanna Slome, stated, “I have been so fortunate to have been able to come to live in the United States and make Flushing my home. What a wonderful and diverse neighborhood that is always changing. It’s such an exciting place and I’ve met so many wonderful people while planting and tending to my garden on Parsons Boulevard. How blessed I am that so many people came to celebrate with me.”

Jesse Slome, Hanna’s son, stated, “My mother, like so many has experienced difficulties in her life. It is her resilience that carries her through and serves as a life lesson that I share with my children and grandchildren. I can’t think of any place other than New York where she could have lived a better life and she makes it a point that she’s never leaving Flushing.”

The full text of Senator Liu’s proclamation is below:

Congratulating Hanna Slome Upon the Occasion of Her 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today’s society; their past contributions and future participation are vital parts of, and valuable assets to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, I, New York State Senator John C. Liu, am justly proud to congratulate Hanna Slome upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Hanna Slome, née Hanna Beer, was born April 11, 1925 to parents Robert and Anna shortly after the town called “Greater Ostrava” was formed; and

WHEREAS, In October 1938, Adolf Hitler annexed the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia; with borders sealed, Hanna was one of only six hundred sixty-nine Czech youth transported out of Czechoslovakia aboard a kinder transport organized by Sir Nicholas Winton; and

WHEREAS, During the war, Hanna worked across various English homes and schools until she was able to immigrate to the United States at the age of nineteen aboard a wartime freighter; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, Hanna married Henry Slome, a German-born man who immigrated to New York with his parents; they were married in Manhattan and moved to a small apartment in Flushing, where their two children, Jesse and Judy, were born; and

WHEREAS, Hanna was instrumental in helping Henry establish a company that designed and imported fine men's textiles from England, Italy, and Japan; and

WHEREAS, Hanna was actively involved in local religious institutions, including Temple Gates of Prayer in Queens; she also served on the board of Junior High School 185, where she enjoyed one term as Board President; and

WHEREAS, Hanna loves gardening and maintains a garden filled with flowering plants; for over ten years, she made thousands of greeting cards using pressed dried flowers that were donated and sold to benefit numerous good causes; and

WHEREAS, Presently, Hanna has seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Hanna Slome has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others, and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which only comes from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments, and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

PROCLAIMED, That I, New York State Senator John C. Liu, congratulate Hanna Slome upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th birthday; and be it further

PROCLAIMED, That a copy of this proclamation be transmitted to Hanna Slome.

April 11, 2025

Senator John C. Liu