

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Susan Gruen Helsinger upon the occasion of her designation as a 2013 Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women Achiever

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to outstanding individuals who distinguish themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Susan Gruen Helsinger upon the occasion of her designation as a 2013 Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women Achiever; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at the Center's 34th Annual Achievers' Awards Gala, to be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013; and

WHEREAS, For more than thirty-five years, the Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women has been dedicated to advancing women in business, industry and the professions; and

WHEREAS, The Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women celebrates and honors women who are leaders, mentors and who have opened doors for other women to help foster their rise in business, the professions and in their community; and

WHEREAS, Susan Gruen Helsinger is a broker at Douglas Elliman Real Estate and founder of the Jason Gruen Research Foundation; at age 25, she was a founding partner of Gruen Optika Corporation in New York City, one of the premier optical companies in the metropolitan New York area; at age 35, she was instrumental in opening Hi-D and Su-Z Toys of Great Neck, New York; and

WHEREAS, After receiving a paralegal degree from Adelphi University, Susan Gruen Helsinger became a real estate broker and co-founded the Custom Real Estate Group and JSC Building Corporation, which was acquired by Douglas Elliman Real Estate; and

WHEREAS, Susan Gruen Helsinger is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Jason Gruen Foundation named after her late son; the Foundation is instrumental in building the Children's Heart Centers at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and Cohen Children's Hospital at NSUH/LIJ Health Systems; it contributes equipment on an ongoing basis to many hospitals and facilities in need and made history six years ago when it started offering cardiac screenings to eighth grade students in school systems on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 2013, Susan Gruen Helsinger was installed as Vice President of the Long Island Board of Realtors, the third largest board in the United States; she also serves on the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Susan Gruen Helsinger serves on the Board of Directors of the L.I.B.O.R. Federal Credit Union and is the Parliamentarian for the Women's Council of Realtors; she has served as a guest lecturer at Molloy College and has been a member of the NYSAR Realtors Honor Society for the past six years; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Susan Gruen Helsinger was named Merrick, New York's "Woman of the Year"; in 2004, she was chosen as Merrick's "Small Business Person of the Year" by the Nassau Chambers of Commerce; in 2006, she garnered the "Woman of the Year" award from United Cerebral Palsy of

Nassau County and the "Humanitarian of the Year" award from the Long Island Board of Realtors, as well as the 2008 "Spirit Award"; and

WHEREAS, Susan Gruen Helsinger served as President of the State of New York J.W.V.A.; she is also a Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Merrick and is on the Board of the Merrick Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation Board of UCPN and the Advisory Board of the Department of New York J.W.V.A., and

WHEREAS, In addition, Susan Gruen Helsinger is a member of the Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women, the Women's Presidents Organization, and serves as a Trustee of Temple Emanuel of Great Neck, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Susan Gruen Helsinger; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their profession and community, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Susan Gruen Helsinger upon the occasion of her designation as a 2013 Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women Achiever; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Susan Gruen Helsinger.