

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mary M. Lai 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 Mary M. Lai 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, A living legend in higher education finance, Mary M. Lai is the Treasurer Emerita of Long Island University (LIU); she was LIU's first Chief Financial Officer and one of the first women in the United States to rise to that rank; and

WHEREAS, Mary M. Lai is likely the longest-serving academic business officer in America; she is in her 67th year of full-time employment at LIU and remains an integral part of the University administration, serving as Treasurer Emerita and senior adviser; and

WHEREAS, On July 27, 2012, Mary M. Lai was named the Inaugural Recipient of National Association of College and University Business Officers' Pathfinder Award which recognizes individuals who have made longstanding contributions to the business officer profession; and

WHEREAS, Mary M. Lai helped build the foundation for the success of the National Association of College and University Business Officers; she was responsible for the advancement of the business officer profession in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mary M. Lai earned a B.S. in Accounting from LIU's Brooklyn campus, graduating magna cum laude in 1942; and

WHEREAS, In 1941, Mary M. Lai married her college sweetheart, William T. "Buck" Lai, a graduate of the LIU Class of 1941; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Mary M. Lai; 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 Mary M. Lai 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 Mary M. Lai.