

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Barbara Hunter Chaffee, MD, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hunter Chaffee, MD of Binghamton, New York, died on March 5, 2013, at the age of 63; and

WHEREAS, Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Barbara Hunter Chaffee attended the Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, Swarthmore College, and the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago, where she received both her M.D. and M.P.H. degrees; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hunter Chaffee distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, As a physician practicing first in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, and then in Binghamton, Barbara Hunter Chaffee's overriding concern was to provide care for the needy, especially those suffering from addictions or from HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, When AIDS first surfaced, hospitals and doctors were fearful to be known as care providers for people with HIV; Barbara Hunter Chaffee was not one of those doctors; she became one of the first physicians in the Southern Tier to treat people with the virus; and

WHEREAS, Some of her patients she helped to keep healthy for decades; others she shepherded through their final days, driven by a deep compassion, a refusal to judge and a desire to provide care to people others shunned; subsequently, a fund has been established in her name with the hopes of inspiring others to follow in her footsteps; and

WHEREAS, The Barbara H. Chaffee, MD, MPH Educational Fund was created in January of 2010 to help health professionals develop knowledge and expertise in the field of HIV/AIDS, and to pay tribute to a remarkable woman whose caring has touched the lives of hundreds of people in upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, When the fund was created, Barbara Hunter Chaffee insisted on including the clause: if HIV should ever be cured, the fund would go on, educating health care providers on other public health issues; and

WHEREAS, After serving as a physician for the National Health Service Corps in Susquehanna, she worked as Medical Director, Alcoholism Services, United Health Services, then for the Broome County Health Service in various capacities, including Medical Director, and from 1990 until her retirement in 2010 as Medical Director of Binghamton Family Care Center Internal Medicine Office at UHS and Medical Director of its HIV Team; and

WHEREAS, Throughout this time, Barbara Hunter Chaffee was also on the faculty of the UHS Residency Program; her work with HIV/AIDS patients began in the 1980s, when she was one of the only physicians in the area willing to treat them, and continued through the rest of her career; furthermore, she was active on HIV-related committees and organizations at the local, state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Even after her retirement, the practice Barbara Hunter Chaffee established continues to grow today, with 320 current patients; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hunter Chaffee's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hunter Chaffee was a long-time member of Trinity Memorial Church in Binghamton, New York, where she was an enthusiastic choir member, lay preacher, and most recently, member of the Vestry; she

was also active in Episcopal Diocesan activities, including six years of service on the Standing Committee; and

WHEREAS, For a number of years, Barbara Hunter Chaffee sang in the Madrigal Choir of Binghamton; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her wide-ranging activities, she was the recipient of over 15 honors and awards, among which were the Baldwin School Alumnae Award; Linda Laubenstein Award from the New York State AIDS Institute; Phoenix Award of the Citizen Action Program; President's Award for Excellence in Teaching at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse; STAP Legacy Award; and the Outstanding Service Award for exceptional accomplishments in HIV/AIDS service delivery from The New York State Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman greatly enjoyed music, the outdoors, hiking and kayaking, and summer weeks in the Adirondacks with her extended family; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hunter Chaffee is survived by her husband, John; her sons, Timothy, Philip, and Conrad; Conrad's wife, Luba and their sons Caleb, Gideon and Joshua; her mother and father, Helen and Holland Hunter; her sisters, Ann Hunter, Christine Hunter and her husband, Louis Venech and their sons, Peter Lewis, Jonathan Venech and Gregory Venech; her brother, Timothy Hunter and his wife, Anne and their daughters, Frances and Nellie; and her brother- and sister-in-law, Paul and Jan Chaffee and his son, Jove Oliver; as well as another sister-in-law, Mary Chaffee; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Barbara Hunter Chaffee leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Barbara Hunter Chaffee, MD, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Barbara Hunter Chaffee.