

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Anna Petrina Rotante upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Anna Petrina Rotante was born on April 28, 1913 and will joyously celebrate her 100th Birthday surrounded by family and friends at a party to be held at the Villa Fiorita in Brooklyn on Sunday, April 28, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Anna came to the United States in 1924; as a child she worked with her mother on embroidery and dresses; she went to school to study dressmaking and went on to become a designer of exclusive dress lines; and

WHEREAS, Some of her creations were displayed at exclusive department stores in many large cities; in New York City they were displayed at the famous Arnold Constable and Company shop on Fifth Avenue; one of the dresses she designed was worn by the famous actress Gene Tierney in the movie "The Razor's Edge"; and

WHEREAS, Anna Rotante grew up in a family which loved to listen to opera so, in her late teens, she decided to study opera; after hearing her sing, her teacher was amazed at the quality and range of her voice; and

WHEREAS, She learned many opera arias and appeared in local theater productions of "Violetta," "La Traviata" and Verdi's "Otello" as the Venetian beauty "Desdemona"; she also gave several concerts singing arias from "Madame Butterfly" and "Tosca"; and

WHEREAS, Anna Rotante was also one of the soloists in the famous singing group "Coro d'Italia", the renowned Italian folklore society which helped maintain the culture of Italy in the United States entertaining and presenting songs and dances from the different regions of Italy throughout America; she and the group also entertained the Italian prisoners of war, helping to keep up their morale while they were in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, While singing with "Coro d'Italia" she met another singer in the chorus, Joseph Rotante; they eventually fell in love and, in 1947, were married; and

WHEREAS, Anna and Joseph have lived and worked together for more than 50 years; they have two sons, a daughter in law, a grandson and a granddaughter and, when her children were small, she became a Cub Scout den mother for several neighborhood children; and

WHEREAS, After an extensive honeymoon around the United States, Anna and Joe opened the first travel agency in Brooklyn catering to honeymooners and vacationers on trips in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The agency eventually grew; Anna and Joe were respected throughout the industry and earned numerous awards from various travel organizations; during this time they traveled extensively throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, When Kiwanis International opened membership to women, Anna and a few other women formed the first women's Kiwanis Club, Marine Park Kiwanis; Anna served three terms as its President and earned many Kiwanis awards for her dedication and charitable service to underprivileged children and to Kiwanis's ideals; and

WHEREAS, Anna Rotante has received many other awards in recognition and appreciation of her talent, her humanitarian work, her work in the travel industry, and her singing career and continues to be active in Kiwanis and in her community; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished woman, who has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the

stamina and courage to savor a full life, has inspired the lives of her many friends and family; and

WHEREAS, This beloved lady has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only 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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Anna Rotante upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Anna Rotante.