

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending HOPE for Bereaved upon the occasion of celebrating its 35th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those institutions in our community that, year after year, diligently provide services for those who are grieving upon the loss of a loved one; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend HOPE for Bereaved upon the occasion of celebrating its 35th Anniversary, recognizing its importance to the community and the integral role it has played and continues to play in the lives of so many; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, HOPE for Bereaved was established in Syracuse, New York, by Therese Schoeneck, who was forced to cope with the death of her 21-year-old daughter; and

WHEREAS, Determined that something positive would come from the death of her daughter, Therese Schoeneck saw a need in the Central New York community to provide support services for grieving parents dealing with the death of a child; and

WHEREAS, What began in 1978 with services for parents has greatly expanded over the past three and a half decades; and

WHEREAS, Today, HOPE for Bereaved is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to providing services free-of-charge to grieving children, adults, and families in the community; and

WHEREAS, Families, friends, businesses, and healthcare professionals often turn to HOPE for Bereaved for training, guidance, and resources when grieving; and

WHEREAS, The many services offered by HOPE for Bereaved include one-to-one counseling, support groups, books, a telephone hotline, and a "HOPEline" newsletter free-of-charge to grieving families and community members; and

WHEREAS, To help the Central New York community deal with grief, HOPE regularly offers bereavement workshops for daycare providers, employers dealing with grief in the workplace, staff at hospitals, and individuals with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of people annually remember their loved ones at the Butterfly Garden of HOPE, a memorial to those who have died and a symbol of hope to the living; and

WHEREAS, HOPE for Bereaved strives to expand its outreach services and programs to grieving children and teens; and

WHEREAS, To do so, HOPE for Bereaved initiated its "Butterfly Art Project" in 2009, for schools to create art in memory of loved ones so that students understand grief and express their feelings; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, HOPE for Bereaved volunteers have joined Therese Schoeneck in helping to provide services, and to let the Central New York community know that HOPE is there for people who need it; and

WHEREAS, In addition, about 400 volunteers stay very active throughout the year organizing a number of fundraisers to help HOPE continue to operate; and

WHEREAS, HOPE for Bereaved annual events include a run-walk event, a golf tournament, and the Celebration of HOPE Dinner; and

WHEREAS, Today, HOPE for Bereaved's services are used locally, nationally, and internationally, and touch the lives of over 10,000 people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those organizations and individuals who enhance the quality of life in their community 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 commend HOPE for Bereaved upon the occasion of celebrating its 35th Anniversary, and to recognize the 35 years the staff and volunteers of HOPE for Bereaved have offered support services to the thousands of grieving children, adults, and families each year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Therese Schoeneck, Founder and Executive Director of HOPE for Bereaved.