

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lavinia Smith upon the occasion of being selected as the Westchester County 2014 Senior Citizen of the Year by the New York State Office for the Aging

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lavinia Smith upon the occasion of being selected as the Westchester County 2014 Senior Citizen of the Year; this momentous occasion will be celebrated at the New York State Office for the Aging's 2014 Senior Citizens Day Celebration on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at the Hart Theatre Lounge in the Egg, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Each May in the State of New York and across the Nation, during National Older Americans Month, the New York State Office for the Aging pauses to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by older citizens; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, members of the older generation have helped build and shape our Nation to be the greatest in the world; they have defended our freedoms and values to ensure that those who come after them may have better lives; nowhere in the nation is the legacy of their efforts more visible and more a part of the lives of all citizens than here in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Lavinia Smith, a very active and industrious woman, has inspired and enriched the lives of her family and friends through her love and respect for others, generously sharing the wisdom gained over years of experiencing life to its fullest; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Mount Vernon, New York since 1965, Lavinia Smith was born and raised in Harlem 91 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Lavinia Smith earned a master's degree from Teacher's College at Columbia University in 1947, and was an elementary school teacher for more than two decades; in addition, she served as a guidance counselor for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Lavinia Smith has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, A steadfast volunteer for 26 years, Lavinia Smith has dedicated her life to improving the lives of the children within her community; she has been a literacy mentor in the Mount Vernon City School District where she currently volunteers at two different schools, as well as at the local library as part of a summer reading program; and

WHEREAS, A founding member of the Rapping Grannies, an intergenerational choir of senior citizens and middle school students established by the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau in 1990, Lavinia Smith continues to perform with the group weekly; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Lavinia Smith is a senior advocate for Communities that Cares Coalition, a senior representative for the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau's Intergenerational Programs, and a board member of Sister to Sister, International; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Lavinia Smith has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Lavinia Smith has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her loving son and her two beautiful grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her

life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and commend those who have witnessed and contributed to the developments and achievements of our Nation, State, and communities over the course of their noteworthy lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lavinia Smith upon the occasion of being selected as the Westchester County 2014 Senior Citizen of the Year by the New York State Office for the Aging; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lavinia Smith.