

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Walter and Anna May Patrick upon the occasion of their recognition as New York State's longest married couple

WHEREAS, Walter T. Patrick, Sr. and Anna May Patrick, of Lansingburgh, New York, were united in marriage nearly 76 years ago; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, February 16, 2013, just two months before their 76th Wedding Anniversary, they proudly accepted an award from New York Marriage Encounter, an organization which has promoted and advocated strengthening marriage bonds for countless couples nationwide since the early 1970s, recognizing them as the New York State couple who has been married for the longest time; and

WHEREAS, Three quarters of a century ago Walter and Anna May Patrick met at the local swimming hole, once known as Miami Beach, on what was called Oil Mill Hill, where there was a dance hall and a nightclub; and

WHEREAS, The only time since their marriage Walter and Anna have been apart was when Walter was in Texas during World War II, Walter was waiting to be shipped out, not certain if he'd see his wife and four children again when, waiting by the ship with his colleagues with all their clothes and gear on, the word came, and was joyfully received, that the war was over; and

WHEREAS, Walter Patrick returned to Troy, New York, where he began a career with General Electric as a machinist until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Accepting the award on February 16, 96-year-old Walter Patrick and Anna May Patrick were visibly pleased to be in the company of a good portion of their family; they are the proud parents of five children and have 15 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren, with number 30 to be ecstatically welcomed in just a few months; and

WHEREAS, Walter and Alma May Patrick are and always have been a tower of strength, support, understanding and limitless love for their family; and

WHEREAS, Their love, devotion, caring, sensitivity and responsiveness to their family, friends and all who know them are their hallmark and tradition; and

WHEREAS, Walter and Anna May Patrick have lived and continue to live their lives with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for human values and ideals, and in so doing, they have inspired others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, This meaningful and well-deserved recognition is the result of the love, hard work and spirit Walter and Anna May Patrick have invested in their marriage; and

WHEREAS, These same values they have passed to their loved ones, producing a family that is close-knit and supportive of its individual members, public-minded in its relations to the community and committed to the ideals of citizenship upon which this Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Walter and Anna May Patrick have touched the lives of their family and many friends through the shining example of their marriage, which is a testament to the devotion and admiration which they possess for one another; and

WHEREAS, The longevity of this enduring marriage truly marks a milestone in life's journey, an event of personal triumph and joy; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a recognition and occasion of such importance are brought to our attention, they should be memorialized by us for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Walter and Anna May Patrick upon the occasion of their

recognition by New York Marriage Encounter as New York State's longest

married couple and to wish them well; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Walter and Anna May Patrick.