

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rabbi Steven Moss for his 40 years of devoted service to B'nai Israel Reform Temple of Oakdale, New York

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rabbi Steven Moss for his 40 years of devoted service to B'nai Israel Reform Temple of Oakdale, New York; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Steven Moss conducted his first service for B'nai Israel at the High Holy Days in 1972, and became the Temple's first ordained Rabbi in June of 1974; and

WHEREAS, Continuing over the next few years, under the luminous direction of Rabbi Steven Moss, the congregation grew in membership, from 23 families to over 300; the services went from single to double Holy Day services, first in the Idle Hour Boulevard building and then at nearby Dowling College; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Steven Moss, a true community leader, ministers to the Jewish life cycle needs of the congregation and the surrounding community; he has chaired the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission since 1992, and is co-chair of the Suffolk County Anti-Bias Task Force as well as chair of the Islip Town Anti-Bias Task Force in the battle against anti-Semitism and other bias crimes; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he is Director and Founder of STOPBIAS, an educational program for bias/hate crimes offenders; he has served as chaplain to the Suffolk County Police Department since 1986, and holds the rank of Deputy Chief; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Steven Moss is President of the Suffolk County Board of Rabbis and is past-President of numerous local and county organizations; he is also Vice-Chair of the Center for the Holocaust, Diversity and Human Understanding located in the library of the Selden Campus of Suffolk Community College; and

WHEREAS, A student of Kabbalah and meditation, Rabbi Steven Moss has led workshops in these areas of Jewish life and study; moreover, he has had articles printed in the Journal of the CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS, and in other publications; he is also the longest sitting member on the Islip Town Board of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Rabbi Steven Moss is enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry Program for Pastoral Psychotherapy at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion and Post-Graduate Center for Mental Health in New York; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Steven Moss has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that indi-

vidual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Rabbi Steven Moss for his 40 years of devoted service to B'nai Israel Reform Temple of Oakdale, New York, noting his unrelenting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Steven Moss.