

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

COMMENDING Marilyn Carlson Nelson upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by ECPAT-USA on November 16, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are greatly enriched by the compassionate commitment of those dedicated organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Marilyn Carlson Nelson upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by ECPAT-USA, to be feted at its Soiree Celebrating 25 Years Protecting Children, on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at the Pace Gallery, New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, ECPAT-USA has been at the forefront of the fight to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children; this vital organization goes to the source of the problem by fighting for new and improved laws, encouraging the private sector to do its part, and raising awareness among those who may be in a position to identify a child who is being commercially sexually exploited; and

WHEREAS, Under the able management of Executive Director, Carol Smolenski, ECPAT-USA and its dedicated team of staff, board members, and volunteers work tirelessly to fight this inhumane and criminal activity at the source; and

WHEREAS, ECPAT-USA is proud to recognize and honor Marilyn Carlson Nelson for her work galvanizing the travel industry to combat human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Carlson Nelson graduated from Smith College with her degree in International Economics and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, as well as the Institut des Hautes Etudes Economiques et Politiques in Geneva, Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Carlson Nelson is the former Chairman and CEO of Carlson, a global travel and hospitality company, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota; with operations in more than 150 countries and territories, more than 100,000 people work under its numerous well-known brands; today, she holds the title of co-CEO of Carlson Holdings; and

WHEREAS, Under Marilyn Carlson Nelson's luminous leadership, Carlson was the first major North American travel and hospitality company to take a stand against the sexual exploitation of children in the travel industry; on behalf of the company, she signed the travel industry's international Code of Conduct to end child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, this remarkable woman partnered with the Queen of Sweden to found the World Childhood Foundation to protect street children around the world; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Carlson's initiatives to protect children at risk from human trafficking, The White House honored the company in 2013 with the inaugural Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking; one year later, Marilyn Carlson Nelson was chosen by a committee of Nobel Prize recipients to receive the Oslo Business for Peace Award which recognizes individual business leaders for their leadership in promoting responsible business practices; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Marilyn Carlson Nelson has appeared on **Forbes** magazine's list as one of "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women", and she was named one of "America's Best Leaders" by **U.S. News and World Report**, and in 2007, **Ethisphere Magazine** recognized her as one of the "100 Most Influential People in Business Ethics"; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, H.E. Jean-David Levitte, French Ambassador to the United States, inducted Marilyn Carlson Nelson into the French Legion d'Honneur, which recognizes citizens of France, and a select few others, for their exemplary leadership and service to humanity; and

WHEREAS, A dynamic woman, Marilyn Carlson Nelson co-Chaired the 2004 World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, and served as Chair of the National Women's Business Council, a bi-partisan advisory council to the President and Congress; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Carlson Nelson also held the title of Chair of the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, and currently serves on the boards of the United Nations Global Compact, the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy, the National Endowment for Democracy and holds the position of Vice Chair of the Minnesota Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Marilyn Carlson Nelson is a former board member of ExxonMobil and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and served as past Chair of the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, This world-renowned philanthropist is also a member of the Royal Order of the North Star First Class, presented by the King and Queen of Sweden; the Order of the White Rose, Officer First Class, presented by the President of Finland; and Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit presented by the King of Norway; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her multi-faceted roles of child advocate and businesswoman, Marilyn Carlson Nelson is the best-selling author of **How We Lead Matters: Reflections on a Life of Leadership**; and

WHEREAS, As a true asset to society, Marilyn Carlson's distinguished records merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; in the faithful performance of her duties and volunteer efforts, her ongoing endeavors and notable achievements have significantly contributed to bettering the quality of life for children all over the world; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations and individuals who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Marilyn Carlson Nelson upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by ECPAT-USA on November 16, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Marilyn Carlson Nelson and Carol Smolenski, Executive Director, ECPAT-USA.