

BY: Senator PHILLIPS

COMMEMORATING the 40th Anniversary of the Port Washington Children's Center, and paying tribute to this year's honorees, on May 3, 2018

WHEREAS, Organizations which serve the interests of the people of this Empire State merit the commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, The Port Washington Children's Center has served the interests of the people of the Empire State by providing day care and educational services to young children in the Port Washington area for the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Port Washington Children's Center, and to pay tribute to this year's honorees; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will be celebrated at a Tribute to Presidents Gala on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at the Swan Club in Roslyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, This year's honorees include former Presidents: Christine Kiernan, Roberta McNeil, Barbara Miller, Nancy Ulrich, Arlene Labenson, Sally Scott, Susan Bagnini, Claudia Rouhana, Toby Koren, Ginny Cook, Bob McGuire, Pat Latzman, Anne Shkuda, Andy London, Kathy Zankel, Pamela Tarica, Judy Cutaia, Lloyd Herman, Candy Scheer, Dorothy Conroy Rule, Doris Novick, Barbara Ring, Doreen Berne, Sandra Joslyn, Teddy Rosaya, David Beatus, Irene D'Antonio, and the late Howard Blankman, Faustina Lees and Barbara Goldstein; and

WHEREAS, For 40 years, the Port Washington Children's Center has provided high quality care for families who reside or work in the community of Port Washington, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, a group of concerned citizens under the auspices of the Port Washington Community Council set up a steering committee to establish a child care center in Port Washington which would serve the economically and culturally diverse population of the community; and

WHEREAS, After receiving a grant and loan from the Veatch Foundation of the North Shore Unitarian Church in the summer of 1977, the first Children's Center opened its doors to the public at its first location in St. Stephen's Church; and

WHEREAS, The licensed, private non-profit facility began caring for 32 children and by the end of the year the Children's Center had outgrown its space and moved to the Merriman School where it thrived, increasing its capacity to 68 children; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, the Children's Center moved to the Flower Hill

School and was able to provide care for 113 children from the ages of three through five in its early childhood program, and five through 12 in its after-school program; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Children's Center moved to its present location in the Landmark Building where it served 121 children; over the next few years, more and more children attended the Center; soon, toddlers, 18 months through 36 months, joined the program, and the Center once again rented space from St. Stephen's Church allowing it to serve more children; and

WHEREAS, During the Fall of 2009, the Children's Center added an after-school program in Sousa Elementary School, followed by its move to Daly Elementary in the fall of 2010, making its year-round program capable of providing care for up to 92 children in Early Childhood programs and 170 school-age children; and

WHEREAS, In the summer of 2010, the Children's Center began directing the school district's summer recreation program, ATLAST, which was later renamed Port Day Camp; this wonderful opportunity allows the Center to provide high quality, affordable summer programs for even more children of the community; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Port Washington Children's Center has strived to provide a safe, nurturing setting for all of its children, helping them to become productive, responsible members of society; a wide variety of activities promote each child's optimum growth, gives them opportunities to make choices, to be creative, to problem solve and to learn conflict resolutions; and

WHEREAS, Compassionate and experienced teachers provide a safe, warm and caring environment for children to learn to express themselves through play and positive reinforcement; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to all of the individuals who have been involved with the Port Washington Children's Center, past and present, noting the importance of their work and their enduring commitment to young children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Port Washington Children's Center, and to pay tribute to this year's honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned honorees and the Port Washington Children's Center.