

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING Florence Wood upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2018 Older American Award by Oneida County on May 22, 2018

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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the senior citizens of the Empire State who, as they reach the fullness of years, continue to be active and vital participants in the life of their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Florence Wood upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2018 Older American Award by Oneida County, to be celebrated on Tuesday, May 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, A woman of singular distinction, Florence Wood has continually demonstrated extreme competence, extraordinary intelligence and diligent leadership in her unwavering service to her community and, consequently, has been selected for this most prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, Born in New York City in 1935, Florence Wood holds a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration from SUNY Cortland; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Richard, and their daughter, both of whom have shown her love and support and rejoice in her many achievements; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, Florence Wood began her illustrious career in education as an elementary school teacher in Whitesboro, New York, where she served for 23 years; she went on to teach gifted students for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Upon retiring, Florence Wood began assisting other teachers with their retirement issues and advocating for the rights of all retirees; she currently serves on several committees for the New York State Teachers' Retirement System; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, she is a member of the American Association of University Women, as well as a 40-year member of the New York Chapter Honorary International Educators Society where she served as President from 2000 to 2002; and

WHEREAS, Having walked on all seven continents, Florence Wood has served as a volunteer tutor with the Literacy Volunteers of America for

12 years; she teaches Citizenship and has helped 38 adults and two children become United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to her community, Florence Wood was recognized in 2017 as the Unsung Heroine of the Year by the local chapter of the New York State Women, Inc.; and

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

WHEREAS, Florence Wood has enriched the lives of her family, friends and colleagues through her love and respect for others, and through the wisdom which comes from many years of living life to the fullest; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Florence Wood upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2018 Older American Award by Oneida County on May 22, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Florence Wood.