

BY: Senator BRESLIN

COMMENDING Rezzin Adams for her many years of dedicated involvement and selfless service to her community

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rezzin Adams for her many years of dedicated involvement and selfless service to her community, and to wish her a very Happy 90th Birthday to be celebrated at a party on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Known as the "Grande dame of the local peace and environmental movements," Rezzin Adams has been the heart of Albany's peace and justice movement since she moved there in 1958; and

WHEREAS, For numerous decades, Rezzin Adams has been an outspoken advocate for many causes including the environment, civil rights, and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Bronx, Rezzin Adams was a headstrong girl who often wandered through the streets of New York City looking for new and exciting adventures; as a teenager, she met other young liberals in a loft in Greenwich Village and talked about how they would change the world; and

WHEREAS, After high school, Rezzin Adams majored in biology at the University of Rochester in the late 1940s; while a student, she worked at the Marine Biology Laboratory at Woods Hole, where she studied with a young teacher named Rachel Carson, who published **Silent Spring**, an influential book on environmentalism; and

WHEREAS, Rezzin Adams met her future husband, Ted Adams, a fellow student, on her 18th birthday in Rochester; the couple married two years later, and together they raised two children; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in the early 1960s, Rezzin Adams has protested the Vietnam War, and every war since, was jailed for civil disobedience while protesting the Persian Gulf War, worked for civil rights, fought with the anti-nuclear movement, advocated on behalf of striking farm workers, helped protect a unique ecosystem by being one of the forces behind the creation of the Pine Bush Preserve, and has for years fought the City of Albany in a largely successful attempt to keep the city from building a dump in the endangered Karner Blue butterfly's habitat; and

WHEREAS, Interested in increasing public awareness of, and

appreciation for, the natural resources of New York, Rezsine Adams founded Save the Pine Bush; this vital organization's efforts resulted in the creation of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Commission, and the preservation of a couple of thousand acres of Pine Bush; and

WHEREAS, As President of Save the Pine Bush, Rezsine Adams has been instrumental in raising awareness and garnering interest from the community; through their advocacy and education efforts, students and the public come to study and explore this unique ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, Rezsine Adams has donated much of her time and energy to saving the Pine Bush; she cooks and serves lasagna for their monthly meetings, attends public hearings, and donates the money she has made watching neighborhood children; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her invaluable service to the Albany Pine Bush, Rezsine Adams helped found the Social Justice Center in Albany in 1981; she helped manage and worked in its store; and

WHEREAS, Rezsine Adams was also involved in the US Peoples China Friendship Association where she helped with their annual China Bazaar; volunteered for years at the WAMC fund drive, and at the Tulip Fest; fought against unfair re-assessment of properties in Center Square; and protested against the death penalty; and

WHEREAS, This feisty and compassionate woman helped prepare and serve both breakfast and lunch for the needy at the Westminster Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, A fixture on the streets of Albany's Center Square, Rezsine Adams truly believes that we have to do everything we can to bring about change; with a warm smile, she gets up, shows up and makes a difference every day of her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those 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 Rezsine Adams for her many years of dedicated involvement and selfless service to her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rezsine Adams.