

**BY:** Senator KENNEDY

**MOURNING** the death of Barbara Wagner, founding director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Barbara Wagner of Getzville, New York, died on Friday, February 17, 2017, at the age of 80; and

**WHEREAS,** Born Barbara McCarthy in Lockport, New York, she attended Lockport Senior High School and went on to study at the University of Buffalo; after graduation, she advanced her studies at Westminster Choir College and received the opportunity to further her career at Germany's Munich Conservatory; and

**WHEREAS,** With her vast experience, Barbara Wagner went on to direct the choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church, where her husband, Reverend William G. Wagner, was a minister; under her luminous leadership, the church choir had two European tours, recorded for American Public Radio, and performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to being the founding director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, which she directed for 10 years, Barbara Wagner taught vocal music at both Nichols School and Buffalo Seminary, served as Music Director at Temple Beth Am for 12 years and directed the Orchard Park Chorale for five years; and

**WHEREAS,** Barbara Wagner was a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Erie County Music Educators Association, the American Guild of Organists, and the Chromatic Club; she was also the founder of the Unitarian Universalists Musicians Network; and

**WHEREAS,** For her commitment to her community and music, Barbara Wagner was awarded the Erie County Music Educator/BPO Award for Excellence in Choral Education; and

**WHEREAS,** Barbara Wagner believed that music transcends boundaries, appreciating and celebrating the beauty that music can bring to all of our lives; and

**WHEREAS,** A passionate leading figure in Western New York choral music, Barbara Wagner distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

**WHEREAS,** Barbara Wagner's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

**WHEREAS,** Predeceased by her husband, Reverend William G. Wagner, Barbara Wagner is survived by her sister, Jeanne Gunby, her loving daughters, Carrie Martin and Molly Wagner, and six grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Barbara Wagner leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Barbara Wagner, founding director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Barbara Wagner.