

Senate Resolution No. 1314

BY: Senator BRESLIN

HONORING FOCUS Churches of Albany upon the occasion its designation as recipient of the Pearl and James Campbell Peace and Justice Award by the Capital Area Council of Churches on October 13, 2021

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor FOCUS Churches of Albany upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Pearl and James Campbell Peace and Justice Award by the Capital Area Council of Churches, to be celebrated at its Fall Awards Assembly Dinner on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at the Italian American Community Center, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1941, the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC) is a fellowship of more than 90 faith communities in the Capital District; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization provides a wide range of services and programs dedicated to bringing congregations together in solidarity to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and provide ecumenical and interreligious education, advocacy and worship; and

WHEREAS, CACC also offers a range of interfaith worship services, celebrations and forums such as Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism, the Good Friday service and an annual musical celebration; and

WHEREAS, The Pearl and James Campbell Peace and Justice Award is presented to a person who in his/her life's work has shown to be a friend of peace and justice, as were the Campbells; and

WHEREAS, FOCUS Churches of Albany is a group of six covenant churches, four faith affiliates and two faith partners doing together what cannot be done alone; these members are committed to food justice through direct service programs and public sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, For more than five decades, the members of FOCUS Churches of Albany have been called upon to contribute their time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and have always given of themselves unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, FOCUS Churches of Albany gives voice to critical issues of hunger and homelessness and joins with other organizations to raise awareness of the impacts and needs of those living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of its community service, a period of constructive involvement, FOCUS Churches of Albany stood constant in dignity and good grace, serving hungry bodies and souls; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals and organizations for the benefit of others which FOCUS Churches has displayed throughout the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor FOCUS Churches of Albany upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Pearl and James Campbell Peace and Justice Award by the Capital Area Council of Churches on October 13, 2021; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to FOCUS Churches of Albany.