

BY: Senator COMRIE

CONGRATULATING Irene Beatrice Owens upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday

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 custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Irene Beatrice Owens upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday to be celebrated with a party in her honor on Saturday, June 4, 2022, in Springfield Gardens, New York; and

WHEREAS, Irene Beatrice Owens, affectionately known as B.B. or Aunt Bea by her family, was born on June 3, 1922, in North Carolina, where she received her early education in the Edgecombe County Public Schools; upon graduating from Bricks High School, she attended D. Schafer Beauty School in Durham, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Irene Beatrice Owens worked briefly as a beautician before relocating to New York City in 1950, where she continued to practice her profession at the Green and Gold Beauty Salon; and

WHEREAS, Irene Beatrice Owens then met and married the love of her life, Jefferson Franklin Owens, and together they raised five children, Evelyn Joyce, Jeffrey Allen, Thomas Jerome, Jacqueline and Mamie Jean; and

WHEREAS, As a stay-at-home mom, Irene Beatrice Owens dedicated her life to creating a loving home for her family; in addition to filling her days with activities which involved her children, she also cared for some of her nieces and nephews daily; and

WHEREAS, As her children married and left home, Irene Beatrice Owens, never one to sit still, trained for and worked briefly in the Home Health field until she retired in 1994; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 72, she began a new chapter of her life as a volunteer at the Allen Senior Community Center, where she worked with the Allen Boutique, daily lunch program and as the trip coordinator, often traveling to various regions of the United States with its senior residents; and

WHEREAS, Irene Beatrice Owens, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; some of her hobbies

have been BINGO, computer classes, jewelry and doll making; and

WHEREAS, A Lifetime Member and a Legacy Life Member of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Queens County Section, this woman of great faith is currently a member of the New Jerusalem Worship Church in Jamaica, New York; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, Irene Beatrice Owens has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Irene Beatrice Owens upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Irene Beatrice Owens.