

BY: Senator KAPLAN

HONORING Lois Schwaeber upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor Lois Schwaeber upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and

WHEREAS, Lois Schwaeber graduated from Queens College and was awarded her Juris Doctor degree from Touro Law Center, cum laude; she was admitted to practice in the State of New York and in all the Federal Courts; and

WHEREAS, Lois Schwaeber served as the Director of Legal Services with the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence; she has worked in the field of domestic violence since 1993, first supervising and administrating a domestic violence clinic for law school students in Suffolk, County, New York, then providing direct representation to Coalition's clients; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Lois Schwaeber was appointed the Director of Legal Services for the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence where she supervised the legal department which consists of five attorneys who provide direct legal representation to victims of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault in civil legal proceedings including family offenses, custody/visitation, child support, paternity and immigration proceedings; the Court Advocacy Program, which provides legal information and support to walk-in victims at all the Nassau County Dedicated Domestic Violence Parts, including the Nassau County Family Court; and the Legal Resource Network, a pro bono project designed to recruit and train volunteer attorneys to provide representation to the backlog of victims unable to afford private attorneys to represent them primarily in matrimonial proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Recognized as an authority in the field of domestic violence, Lois Schwaeber organized, conducted, and participated in many professional forums and trainings; she also partook in numerous workshops on domestic violence, lectured to many community organizations on this subject, and appeared on several television programs addressing intimate partner violence and custody/visitation; and

WHEREAS, Lois Schwaeber is the author of **Domestic Violence: The Special Challenge in Custody and Dispute Resolution; Representing the Domestic Violence Client in Matrimonial Actions; Domestic Violence in**

Custody and Visitation Proceedings; and Recognizing Domestic Violence: How to Know It When You See It and How to Provide Appropriate Representation; and

WHEREAS, Well-known for her strong work ethic, Lois Schwaeber has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including: the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Joan L. Ellenbogen Award in May 2011 and the Touro Law Center Alumni Council Public Interest Award in January 2011; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she received the 2006 Nassau NOW Women's Equality Award as an Advocate For Survivors of Violence Against Women, and in June of 1998, she was the recipient of the Nassau County Women's Bar Associations: Virginia C. Duncombe, Esq., Memorial Award for Exceptional Contributions to Women's Legal Education; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Lois Schwaeber was honored by the Nassau County Judicial Women's In the Courts Committee for her work with them in 2006 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, Lois Schwaeber is very active in other public interest and community based philanthropic and legal organization; she is co-Chair of the Domestic Violence Committee of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and serves as a member of several committees, task forces, work groups and advisory committees, such as: the Nassau County Executive's Family Violence Task Force; the New York State Coalition against Domestic Violence's Legislative Committee; the Nassau County's Judicial Women in the Courts Committee; and the Nassau County Bar Association's We Care Fund Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her four children and her grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Lois Schwaeber rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to Legal Services with the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence; in her capacity as Director, she served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, In her official acts, Lois Schwaeber was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems which earned her the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lois Schwaeber upon the occasion of her retirement, and to wish her well in all her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lois Schwaeber.