

BY: Senator KAPLAN

CONGRATULATING Ann Tountas upon the occasion of being inducted into the 28th Annual May W. Newburger Women's Roll of Honor by the Town of North Hempstead, in conjunction with the observance of Women's History Month

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those women of achievement within this great Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who inspire others through their model citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Ann Tountas upon the occasion of being inducted into the 28th Annual May W. Newburger Women's Roll of Honor by the Town of North Hempstead, in conjunction with the observance of Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, Since 1994, the Town of North Hempstead has honored women who have made a contribution to their community, or have accomplished a significant achievement through public or private efforts; Ann Tountas is one such woman; and

WHEREAS, Ann Tountas' volunteer efforts in the Herricks community began in the early 1980's and have continued into the present; her first major contributions focused on addressing the tensions which arose as demographic changes became increasingly clear to residents, The Herricks community, traditionally a Euro-centered immigrant group, faced a challenge as new residents of Asian and South Asian ancestry moved into Herricks in increasingly large numbers; and

WHEREAS, During this period, Ann Tountas was active in the Denton Avenue School PTA, serving as vice-president and later as president; she saw the challenge presented by cultural diversity and recommended decisive action that would build sustainable structures to unite the community; this is when she became one of the founding members of the Herricks Community Coalition, a group composed of residents, school officials, business representatives, clergy and other community groups, including the Scouts; she also joined the Herricks Community Fund, volunteering in leadership positions, including president; and

WHEREAS, For over 40 years of residency in the Town of North Hempstead, Ann Tountas has been engaged in the fiber of the community; the quality of life for residents of all ages and backgrounds in Herricks has been surely been made better by the volunteer efforts of Ann and so many others who joined in the Community Coalition and Community Fund; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our

attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Ann Tountas upon the occasion of being inducted into the 28th Annual May W. Newburger Women's Roll of Honor by the Town of North Hempstead, in conjunction with the observance of Women's History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ann Tountas.