

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

CONGRATULATING Shirley Barnard Waters 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 Shirley Barnard Waters upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Born in Syracuse, New York, to the late Bradley Cutting Barnard and Margaret Alberta (Kessinger) Barnard, Shirley Barnard and her family moved to Rome, New York, when she was just a young teen; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Barnard graduated from Rome Free Academy where she studied foreign languages; she grew up in a newspaper family where discussion of community and world issues was commonplace at the dinner table; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Barnard met George Waters and they would proceed to graduate from Syracuse University in 1943; she and George were united in marriage on September 23, of that same year; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Barnard Waters received a degree in Fine Arts in Painting from Syracuse University; an avid artist, she had a passion for drawing and painting; in addition, she crafted jewelry and sketched faces on napkins to the delight of those she met; and

WHEREAS, After World War II, at the age of 25, Shirley Barnard Waters sailed on a converted troop ship, the E.B. Alexander, to join her husband as part of the Army of Occupation in Salzburg, Austria; with her own 18-month old child in tow, she also found herself den mother to some 125 young soldiers of the 42nd Division, 222nd Regiment, Anti-tank Company that her husband captained; and

WHEREAS, During the 1950s, this loving mother of five children counseled others around a large kitchen table which proved a gathering place for neighborhood children, parents, friends, and civic leaders; never idle, she involved herself with church, schools, and painting classes with friends, often doing portraits in oil; and

WHEREAS, This courageous woman helped facilitate the B-52 static display, including the ALCM missile beside it; and

WHEREAS, The majority owner of the family-owned Rome Sentinel newspaper, Shirley Barnard Waters weighed in heavily during Urban Renewal to assure the newspaper plant would anchor the new downtown; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Barnard Waters saw potential for Grace Carpenter's home and, with her husband George, cajoled community leaders to establish the Rome Community Art Center; 50 years later she would embrace moving the newspaper office to Griffiss Technology Park; and

WHEREAS, Always an arts advocate, Shirley Barnard Waters earned many community, art, and journalism awards and accolades throughout her life; 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, 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 Shirley Barnard Waters upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Shirley Barnard Waters.