

BY: M. of A. McMahon

CELEBRATING the life and legacy of Mildred L. Speers, meritorious United States Army Nurse and French Legion of Honor Medal recipient

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Mildred L. Speers, a preeminent citizen whose distinguished service and caring commitment will long serve as standards to which others might aspire; and

WHEREAS, Mildred L. Speers of Clarence, New York, died on Friday, January 21, 2022, at the remarkable age of 100; and

WHEREAS, Born on June 12, 1921, Mildred Budimirovich, affectionally known as Millie, was a native of Lackawanna, New York; she graduated from Buffalo State Hospital's School of Nursing in 1942, preparing her for an esteemed life of medical service; and

WHEREAS, In November of 1945, Mildred and the love of her life, Harold W. Speers, were united in marriage in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by the untimely death of her brother Bernard who served in the 8th Air Force, Mildred L. Speers valiantly served her country as a member of the United States First Army assigned to the 96th Evacuation Hospital in the European theater during World War II; and

WHEREAS, During her illustrious military career, Mildred L. Speers served in Belgium, Holland and France, among other places, and achieved the revered rank of First Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Upon her honorable discharge in 1946, Mildred L. Speers worked as an emergency room nurse at Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital; furthermore, a woman of indomitable faith and dedication, she was an avid and proud member of the Christ the King parish for 62 years, serving its Rosary and Altar Society and knitting countless baptismal shawls for infants; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated member of her community, Mildred L. Speers served as Treasurer and Secretary of her Senior Bowling leagues; she enjoyed golfing with her friends and gardening, as well as caring for her grandchildren, great grandchildren and her beloved pet puppies; and

WHEREAS, In December of 2019, at the age of 98 years old, Mildred L. Speers received the French Legion of Honor Medal, Chevalier, the highest French order of merit, for risking her life to aid in the liberation of France; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband in 2010, Mildred L. Speers is survived by her son, Craig Edward Speers; her daughter, Kimberly Ann Speers; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a sister, Helen Russo; and

WHEREAS, Mildred L. Speers' infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through her family's vivid and happy memories; her insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives she touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Mildred L. Speers leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing woman; she will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and legacy of Mildred L. Speers, and to express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Mildred L. Speers.