

Senate Resolution No. 1474

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING Margaret Helen Walker upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday on November 12, 2023

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 Margaret Helen Walker upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday on Sunday, November 12, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Helen Calhoun of New Hartford, New York, was born to Grant and Helen (Welch) Calhoun in Brookfield, New York, on November 12, 1923; she is the eldest of eight children, having four sisters and three brothers; and

WHEREAS, In 1941, Margaret Helen Calhoun graduated from Brookfield Central School and enrolled in secretarial studies at Powelson Business Institute in Syracuse, New York, graduating in 1942; during World War II, she worked for the United States War Department; and

WHEREAS, On November 21, 1943, Margaret Helen Calhoun married Harry Walker, a dairy farmer in North Brookfield who also operated a sawmill and produced maple syrup; the couple were blessed with four children; and

WHEREAS, While raising a family, Margaret Helen Walker assisted with the work on the farm; through the years, nine grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren enriched the couple's lives; and

WHEREAS, Active in her community, Margaret Helen Walker was committed to various organizations; she was involved in clean-up projects in her community while she was a member of the World Wide Guild (1958-1962); she also held membership with Home Bureau; she even ensured the neighborhood children could enjoy their summers by transporting them to Brookfield's swimming pool; and

WHEREAS, Having remarkable skills in mathematics, Margaret Helen Walker acted as Treasurer of numerous local organizations, including Brookfield Historical Society; engaged in politics, she also participated in elections as a poll worker; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Helen Walker has enjoyed various pastimes and interests, including playing the piano as a volunteer at Harding Nursing Home, singing in the choir for many years as a member of Brookfield First Baptist Church, bowling from the 1960s through the 1980s with the Waterville Bowling League, playing card games, and making her remarkable chocolate fudge; and

WHEREAS, After 80 years of residency in North Brookfield, Margaret Helen Walker transitioned to long-term care at Sitrin Health Care Center in 2023; 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, Margaret Helen Walker has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the vibrant charm and infinite 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 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 Margaret Helen Walker upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday on November 12, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Margaret Helen Walker.