

BY: Senator STEC

CONGRATULATING Dorothy Pelkey upon the occasion of celebrating her 102nd 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 Dorothy "Dot" Pelkey upon the occasion of her 102nd Birthday which was celebrated on April 8, 2024; this remarkable milestone coincided with the total solar eclipse, a rare celestial event and moment of significance and wonder for Dot on her special day; and

WHEREAS, Born on April 8, 1922 to Leo and Melvina Lafave, Dorothy Lafave grew up with five brothers and graduated from Altona Central School in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Lafave and Norman Pelkey were united in marriage in July of 1943, and together they raised four daughters and a son; they also helped raise two foster daughters for more than seven years; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, over time, this gracious family shared their home with nearly 20 people, including an elderly Aunt during winter months, an exchange student from Columbia, two sisters who wanted to finish school in Altona before moving with family, and others who just needed a place to stay for a few days or several months; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Pelkey worked at CVPH, the Diamond Match Company, and Vanity Fair, before beginning her illustrious career at Georgia Pacific, where she retired after 23 years of service; and

WHEREAS, With a passion for gardening, Dorothy Pelkey always had a large vegetable garden and picked hundreds of pints of blueberries and wild strawberries from which she would make jam; she also picked apples and potatoes in the fall; and

WHEREAS, A woman of indomitable faith and dedication, Dorothy and her husband were very active in the church of Saint Louis of France in Sciota, New York, helping with harvest dinners and walking children to religion classes; she also taught religion for many years; and

WHEREAS, Today, Dorothy Pelkey remains active in the Senior Housing building where she lives independently; she helps plan and prepare gatherings, such as monthly pot-luck luncheons and summertime yard sales

for which she bakes several loaves of bread; she also loves playing bingo, card games, making puzzles, and checking scratch off tickets she often gets as gifts; and

WHEREAS, While she is passionate about many things, above all her greatest love is her family; in addition to her five children, she has nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Pelkey, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; 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, Dorothy Pelkey has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the profound charm and 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 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 Dorothy Pelkey upon the occasion of celebrating her 102nd Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dorothy Pelkey.