

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING the Bosnian American Community Association for hosting the 3rd Annual Srebrenica Walk in Utica, New York, on July 11, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize those organizations which work to preserve and curate history, exposing wrongdoings and injustices, while setting examples for positive action for the citizenry of this great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Bosnian American Community Association for hosting the 3rd Annual Srebrenica Walk at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, New York, on Thursday, July 11, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Annually, Remembering Srebrenica, a British charitable initiative, selects a theme to reflect an aspect of the genocidal tragedy which warrants commemoration; the theme for 2024 is, "I Am Because You Are"; the Srebrenica Walk honors and remembers more than 8,000 victims who fell prey to the Serbian forces; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia, was besieged by Serbian military and paramilitary units under the direct control of war criminals, General Ratko Mladic and Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic; and

WHEREAS, Srebrenica also became a place where thousands of people from neighboring villages and towns found refuge, and it was declared a United Nations Safe Zone; however, this did not prevent Serbian forces from entering Srebrenica on July 11, 1995, separating men from women and children and executing them within four days; and

WHEREAS, The Srebrenica Walk represents the survivors who were forced to hide in the forests and mountains and walk for miles to reach the Town of Tuzla and other safe zones, escaping persecution; unfortunately, many never reached safe zones and died in the forests from gunfire, diseases, lack of food and water, and exhaustion; and

WHEREAS, In Bosnia, there is an annual March for Peace in which thousands of people walk on the routes that survivors once walked; with this act, the Bosnian American Community Association remembers and honors those who died and those who survived this horrible event; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Bosnian American Community Association for hosting the 3rd Annual Srebrenica Walk, honoring and memorializing the victims of the Srebrenica Genocide of July 11, 1995; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to the Bosnian American Community Association.