

BY: M. of A. Levenberg

CONGRATULATING Irene Smythe-Bullock 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 Irene Smythe-Bullock upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday on Thursday, January 25, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Irene Wilson, of Peekskill, New York, was born to the late Edward Wilson and Julia Thomison in Petersburg, Tennessee, on January 25, 1924; she was the eldest, and is now the only living child, of her parents' union; and

WHEREAS, When she was 21 years old, Irene Wilson married John Buchanan Smythe, moving to Louisville, Kentucky, to start their new life together; the couple were blessed with seven children: Waymon, Mary, Joel (David), Barbara, identical twin boys, Jerry and Terry, and Windell; and

WHEREAS, When Windell was approximately five years old, the family of nine moved to Shrub Oak, New York, and subsequently relocated to Peekskill; after her divorce, Irene Smythe met Paul Bullock whom she married on July 4, 1965; four years later, her second husband's three children, Paul, Jr., Evelyn, and Linda, joined the family; and

WHEREAS, As the children grew older and left home to start their own lives and families, Paul and Irene Bullock continued using their well-honed skills as parents and embraced foster care in their home; later, the couple decided to purchase a large parcel of land in nearby Garrison, New York; this property, lovingly dubbed "The Garrison Estate," served as the optimum place to host family gatherings for birthdays, holidays, and other memorable occasions; and

WHEREAS, Paul and Irene Bullock worked hard and attended school to obtain their commercial driver's license (CDL) to drive semi-trucks, later becoming owner-operators of their own trucks; this occupation allowed the couple to travel the country together; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, along with other members of their family, Paul and Irene Bullock moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where the seasoned foster parents continued to care for children and work in group homes; the

State of Arizona presented them with an award, recognizing their contributions and dedication to the enrichment of foster children's lives; and

WHEREAS, On May 13, 2015, Irene Bullock tragically lost her husband of almost 50 years; some time after her loss, she returned to Peekskill where she resides with her daughter, Mary; and

WHEREAS, To this day, Irene Smythe-Bullock is still quite independent; she enjoys shopping at thrift stores, sewing, taking car trips, traveling to visit her great-granddaughter and her family in Virginia and her grandson and his family in Florida, and spending time with her son, Windell, and her daughter, Linda, who reside in Peekskill; making cherished memories with her great-great-grandchildren is her favorite pastime; and

WHEREAS, Known for doing all the good that she can for others, Irene Smythe-Bullock has been dearly cherished; she will be long-remembered for the joy and happiness she has striven to share with family, friends, and all those whom she has met during her long, full life; and

WHEREAS, Irene Smythe-Bullock, 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, Irene Smythe-Bullock 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 come 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 outstanding achievements of this Nation 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 Irene Smythe-Bullock upon the occasion of celebrating her 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Irene Smythe-Bullock.