

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dorothy Burnham upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York Friends of the People's World

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in the 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 honor Dorothy Burnham upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York Friends of the People's World to be celebrated at its 2011 Better World Awards at Winston Unity Hall, New York, New York, on Sunday, May 22, 2011; and

WHEREAS, A native of Brooklyn, New York, Dorothy Burnham went to an all Girls High School in the early 1930s, at which time she became active on social issues through the American Student Union; this initiated a lifetime of activity and commitment to the fight for civil rights, women's rights, peace, democratic rights, and the concerns of all working people; and

WHEREAS, When Dorothy Burnham was enrolled in Brooklyn College she was exposed to remarkable professors who urged her to explore the true causes of poverty, starvation, social inequality, and racism; they inspired her and pointed her in the direction to change conditions by active participation in the struggles of that period; this is where she developed her own dedication to social justice; and

WHEREAS, In 1940, Dorothy and her husband, Louis E. Burnham moved to Birmingham, Alabama to the headquarters of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, where they joined other young African American progressives and became life-long advocates for social justice; Louis and Dorothy worked out of that office in Birmingham until it closed down in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Burnham became a professor of Biology at Hostas Community College, and Empire State College in the CUNY system, in which time she was also active in the New York State Teachers Union; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s and 90s, Dorothy Burnham was an active leader in the national organization Women for Racial and Economic Equality, as well as with the Sisters Against South African Apartheid, Genes and Gender, and Womens International League for Peace and Freedom; in addition, she served on the Board of Freedomways Magazine; and

WHEREAS, Truly committed to social change and an end to racism, Dorothy Burnham has made great contributions to multiple worthy causes throughout her life, all made possible through her own education; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Burnham believes that our country is experiencing some very serious setbacks in education and civil rights, and that the children of our nation's future depend on a major struggle to defeat the cuts in education and expand the rights of affordable college education for all; and

WHEREAS, Today, Dorothy Burnham is the President of the Louis E. Burnham Award Fund, which funds writers and other activists in the struggles for social progress, especially civil rights; and

WHEREAS, After Dorothy Burnham lost her beloved husband and partner, Louis, in 1960, she continued to live a full and noble life; currently, she is 96 years old and still going strong; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her four outstanding children, all of whom feel privileged to be part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its

time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those individuals which foster awareness and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dorothy Burnham upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York Friends of the People's World; and be it further

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