

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Edith M. Flanigen upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation on November 20, 2014

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Edith M. Flanigen has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Edith M. Flanigen upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation; this auspicious occasion was recognized by President Obama with a Ceremony at the White House on Thursday, November 20, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is the Nation's highest honor for technological achievement, bestowed by the President of the United States on America's leading innovators; the medal is awarded annually to individuals for their outstanding contributions to America's economic, environmental and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, Born April 28, 1929, in Buffalo, New York, Edith M. Flanigen's early interest in chemistry was sparked by a teacher she had while attending Holy Angels Academy with her two sisters; and

WHEREAS, Edith M. Flanigen studied chemistry at D'Youville College where she graduated as Class President and Valedictorian; she went on to earn a Master's degree in Inorganic Physical Chemistry from Syracuse University in 1952; and

WHEREAS, A true trailblazer in her field, Edith M. Flanigen began her illustrious career at Union Carbide in 1952, first tasked with the purification/extraction of different silicone polymers; she quickly moved up the ladder to the Molecular Sieves Group, followed by her promotion as the first female Corporate Research Fellow, and finally as Senior Corporate Research Fellow in 1986; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Edith M. Flanigen moved to Universal Oil Products (UOP), now known as Honeywell, where she was once again named Senior Research Fellow; just three years later she was promoted to UOP Fellow; she retired from this esteemed position in 1994, but remained active with the company as a consultant until 2004; and

WHEREAS, During her 42 year tenure as a Chemist, Edith M. Flanigen was instrumental in the development of a way to manufacture more gasoline from every barrel of oil, as well as a way to extract organics out of paint; she was cited by President Obama for her role in helping decontaminate radioactive water at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in total, she invented more than 200 synthetic materials, including the synthetic emeralds that Union Carbide marketed for many years; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Edith M. Flanigen became the first female recipient of the prestigious Perkin Medal, an honor bestowed annually by the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry to a scientist with an innovation in applied chemistry resulting in outstanding commercial development; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she is the proud recipient of the Garvan Medal, the Lemelson-MIT Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2002, she was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Today, Edith M. Flanigen, 85, is retired and living in White Plains, New York; she is an active member at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus in Valhalla; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession, dedicating themselves to its enhancement and leading it in new directions, are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Edith M. Flanigen upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation on November 20, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Edith M. Flanigen.