

**BY:** Senator BRESLIN

**HONORING** the Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Club upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Gail Rieth Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by Circles of Mercy on June 13, 2018

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Club upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Gail Rieth Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by Circles of Mercy, to be celebrated at its Annual Gala "A Taste of Mercy" on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at the Shaker Ridge Country Club in Loudonville, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Circles of Mercy, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the community by working to end the cycle of poverty, especially among women and women with children; and

**WHEREAS,** This vital organization honors the dignity of each person by offering hospitality and providing services, compassion, stewardship, leadership and collaboration, which is performed in an effort to instill hope and empower individuals to reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS,** The members of the Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Club have been called upon to contribute their time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and have always given of themselves unstintingly; and

**WHEREAS,** The Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Club, founded in 1960, is one of 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries comprising the 1.23-million-member organization called Rotary International, now in its 113th year of public service; and

**WHEREAS,** The men and women of Rotary are volunteers working together in an inclusive manner in many fields to improve the lives of people everywhere; and

**WHEREAS,** Locally, the Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Club regularly provides assistance in the categories of youth scholarships, leadership training, and foreign exchange study; aid to military veterans and families; curriculum and supplies for schools; food pantries; holiday adoptions of children and families in need; recycling and conservation; athletes with disabilities; and organizations such as Circles of Mercy, Ronald McDonald House, the YMCA, and both Girl and Boy Scouts; and

**WHEREAS,** Globally, the Club supports lifesaving pediatric cardiac surgeries through the Gift of Life program; aid to victims of natural and other disasters through the ShelterBox Relief Program; ongoing vaccination efforts through PolioPlus, that have nearly eradicated the once-prevalent disease from the planet; hygiene and medical training programs for women in African nations through the Freedom From Fistula Foundation, as well as many other initiatives; and

**WHEREAS,** Volunteerism is an essential element of all societies; it provides a way in which the human values of community, caring and serving can be sustained and strengthened; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, volunteerism promotes family and community solidarity; most importantly, people who volunteer their time in civic and charitable endeavors inspire others to the call of volunteerism; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Club upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Gail Rieth Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by Circles of Mercy on June 13, 2018; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Club.