

BY: Senator JACOBS

COMMENDING The Honorable Sybil E. Kennedy upon the occasion of her retirement after 50 years of distinguished service to the Town of Grand Island, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those singular individuals who devote their purposeful lives and careers to preserving the rights and protecting the welfare of the citizens of their community and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Honorable Sybil E. Kennedy upon the occasion of her retirement after 50 years of distinguished service to the Town of Grand Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, Sybil E. Kennedy moved to Buffalo, New York, where she graduated from Bryant & Stratton Business Institute and attended the University of Buffalo, Millard Fillmore College; five years later, she and her husband, James P. Kennedy, moved to Grand Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, Also in 1955, Sybil E. Kennedy began her long and distinguished career in law working as a legal assistant for attorneys Francis "Bud" Pritchard and Edward W. Kinney; throughout her 62-year career, she worked with several judges and attorneys, including her daughter; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Sybil E. Kennedy was asked to help out for a few weeks in the Grand Island Court and went on to hold the position of Chief Clerk of the Court for over 30 years; in this capacity, she traveled around New York State teaching newly-elected judges and court clerks practices and procedures in town and village courts, was a member of both the Local Court Advisory and the Judicial Agency Coordinating Committees, served as Conference Chairman, and was the town's first Marriage Officer; and

WHEREAS, Realizing how important it was for clerks to be properly trained, Sybil E. Kennedy and 10 other clerks founded the New York State Association of Magistrates Court Clerks, which today, has a membership of over 1,500 clerks; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Sybil E. Kennedy was the first woman to be elected Town Justice for Grand Island, the title from which she officially retired in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure, Judge Sybil E. Kennedy was committed to helping those who struggled with addiction and victims of domestic violence; she instituted a First Time Last Time problem solving program in hope of early intervention, and was instrumental in forming domestic violence programs which are currently used throughout the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Judge Sybil E. Kennedy was a vital member of the Erie County and New York State Association of Magistrates; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her work with the Grand Island Court, Sybil E. Kennedy has been involved with numerous other local organizations including the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, St. Stephen's Church, the Grand Island Zonta Club, the PTA, Girls Scouts, Junior Football, and the Lions Club, as well as the Independence Parade Committee; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman was also a Director of the Board of Directors of Sponsors of the United States Navy, having christened a minesweeper, the **USS Heroic**, during World War II, which was built in a shipyard owned by her father and grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to both her profession and community, Justice Sybil E. Kennedy was named the 1978 Grand Island Citizen of the Year - Government, the 1984 New York State Magistrates Association Court Clerk of the Year, and the 2019 Grand Island Citizen of the Year; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her children, Deborah Kennedy-Rogoza and James P. Kennedy, and her five grandchildren, Randy, Lauren, Kevin, Bridget and Jack, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in Erie community has been ably served and uniquely enriched through the selfless dedication and benevolent concern of Justice Sybil E. Kennedy; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as Grand Island Justice, Sybil E. Kennedy served with loyalty, honor and distinction, was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems in her official acts; and

WHEREAS, A singular asset to all of the citizens she has served, Judge Sybil E. Kennedy's life and career are a portrait of preeminence in public service, and present a role model for all who aspire to a career in public service; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sybil E. Kennedy, in every capacity in which she served, has left her permanent mark on the criminal justice community and will forever be remembered as a determined, innovative and genuinely concerned expert in her field; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Honorable Sybil E. Kennedy upon the occasion of her retirement after 50 years of distinguished service to the Town of Grand Island, New York, and to wish her well in all her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Sybil E. Kennedy.