

BY: Senator RYAN

CONGRATULATING Mary Jean Jakubowski upon the occasion of her retirement after nearly 30 years of distinguished service to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the 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 congratulate Mary Jean Jakubowski upon the occasion of her retirement after nearly 30 years of distinguished service to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library; she will officially retire in late June of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jean Jakubowski first attended Medaille College; upon graduation she received her master's degree in information and library science at the University at Buffalo, New York; her formal education prepared her for the myriad of questions she has fielded during her years at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure at Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Mary Jean Jakubowski has served in a variety of positions including, Chief Operating Officer, Human Resources Officer, Central Library Department Head and as a Librarian; she has also worked in several departments at the Central Library and the Orchard Park Public Library; and

WHEREAS, A decade ago, this knowledgeable woman rose through the ranks to become Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library; though her accomplishments are numerous and notable, Mary Jean Jakubowski claims this title is her proudest professional achievement; this illustrious position will be the one from which she will retire; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jean Jakubowski's forward thinking has not only raised the level of community awareness about library services, but has also encouraged new partnerships, bringing organizations with similar missions into the Central Library; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Mary Jean Jakubowski has created new initiatives, such as the establishment of the downtown Reading Park and the mounting of major public exhibits featuring the Library's Rare Books and Special Collections, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, She has strongly supported advancing access to technology by restoring bookmobile service with a WiFi-equipped vehicle that travels to underserved areas of Erie County, as well as expanding access to free high-speed internet, both inside and outside of library

buildings; and

WHEREAS, Well-versed in all library processes and day-to-day operations, Mary Jean Jakubowski is extremely effective in leading this large and complex organization consisting of 37 libraries, nine of them in the City of Buffalo, and working with a federation of 22 governing bodies and hundreds of employees, while serving approximately 400,000 library cardholders; and

WHEREAS, After an extraordinary career which traversed nearly three decades, this amazing woman still finds time to continue with her favorite nonprofits: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Explore & More - Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Children's Museum, and the Alzheimer's Association; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Mary Jean Jakubowski brought an uncompromising standard of excellence to her work and a warm sense of caring and concern to every person she assisted; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jean Jakubowski's life experience has been varied and full; this extraordinary woman loves traveling, cooking, baking, reading and her family; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Lawrence, and her two daughters, Katelyn and Kristen, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Mary Jean Jakubowski over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Mary Jean Jakubowski upon the occasion of her retirement after nearly 30 years of distinguished service to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mary Jean Jakubowski.