Senate Resolution No. 2255

BY: Senator KRUEGER

MOURNING the death of Kathy Goldman, distinguished citizen, civic leader, and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Goldman of Brooklyn, New York, died on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Goldman distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Vera Friedman was born on January 15, 1932, to parents Ila (Goldman) and Samuel Friedman, and would later change her name to Kathryn; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Goldman was among the first group of girls to attend the Bronx Senior High School of Science, and later went on to be the first in her family to go to college; she studied film at New York University, then briefly attended City College and Hunter College; in 1986, she earned a Master of Urban Studies degree from Queens College of the City University of New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, Kathy Goldman traveled to Budapest, where she worked pridefully as a translator at the World Youth Festival; and

WHEREAS, Finding passion in a myriad of social causes, Kathy Goldman was active in the Urban League's campaign against racial discrimination in housing, and joined a group of parents who actively supported school desegregation; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, Kathy Goldman, alongside another activist, Ellen Lurie, took the initiative to compare reading test scores of every school in the city and publicized them as evidence that Black students were receiving an inferior education; and

WHEREAS, She and Evelina Antonetty organized to improve South Bronx public schools, developing a bilingual training initiative for adults through United Bronx Parents, and, in 1971, introduced a federally financed free summer meals program; she also assisted in drafting regulations when the program was expanded nationally in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Goldman founded the Community Food Resource Center, a non-profit food advocacy group, as a buffer against stricter eligibility requirements for welfare, assisting countless citizens since the organization's founding; this endeavor kickstarted a 50-year journey of

her combatting food insecurity throughout New York City and the Nation at large, and she was the executive director of the center until her retirement in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Shortly following her founding of the Community Food Resource Center, Kathy Goldman helped organize what is now known as the Food Bank for New York City, which helps to serve numerous soup kitchens and food pantries around the city; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Kathy Goldman started the Community Kitchen of West Harlem, an innovative program that not only offered food but also helped the hungry with other needs, including housing and health care; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, Kathy Goldman successfully persuaded the city to open school cafeterias in the evening in Chinatown and Harlem to provide dinners to older adults; and

WHEREAS, For her five decades of unrelenting commitment to counteracting food insecurity, Kathy Goldman is regarded by many as the single most important voice in fighting hunger in New York, and has received numerous awards and accolades as a result; she was honored as a "Champion of Change" by President Obama at the White House, was the 1989 winner of Pillsbury's Best Against Hunger prize, and received the Tisch Food Center Lifetime Achievement Award from Teachers College in 2023 for her lifetime of dedicaed service to helping children eat school meals and the ripple effects of her efforts on school meals across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Goldman's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Goldman is survived by her children, Julie, Joseph and Robert Goldman; five grandsons; and two great-grandsons; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Kathy Goldman leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Kathy Goldman, distinguished citizen, civic leader, and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Kathy Goldman.