

Senate Resolution No. 1401

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Dr. Marian Rose, distinguished scientist, environmental advocate, and devoted citizen of the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Dr. Marian Rose of Bedford, New York, who died on August 20, 2025, at the age of 104, after a lifetime of extraordinary service to science, environmental protection, and the betterment of society; and

WHEREAS, Born Marian Heineman on October 11, 1920, in Brussels, Belgium, to American parents, Dr. Rose lived a life defined by intellectual rigor, moral courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, A resident of the Town of Bedford since 1973, Dr. Marian Rose was a pioneering physicist whose academic achievements were remarkable, earning a Bachelor of Arts from Barnard College, a Master of Arts from Columbia University, and a doctorate from Harvard University by 1947, at a time when women were significantly underrepresented in the sciences; and

WHEREAS, Her early scientific career included classified research related to uranium isotope separation during World War II and later groundbreaking theoretical work on satellite drag in the upper atmosphere, as well as decades of advanced research in magnetically confined hydrogen fusion, contributing to the pursuit of clean and potentially limitless energy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marian Rose served with distinction as a teaching fellow at Harvard University, a physicist and senior research scientist at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University for two decades, and later as a visiting fellow at Yale University, earning widespread respect for her intellect, mentorship, and scientific insight; and

WHEREAS, In her retirement, Dr. Marian Rose brought her scientific expertise and ethical conviction to environmental advocacy, becoming a tireless leader in the protection of water resources, wetlands, forests, and communities throughout the Hudson Valley and New York State; and

WHEREAS, She founded the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition in 1997, later expanded to protect watersheds statewide, guiding it into a highly effective alliance of dozens of organizations that successfully advanced stronger protections for critical water resources, wetlands, and forests, and opposed environmentally harmful development and fossil fuel infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Through her leadership, advocacy, and legal strategy, Dr. Marian Rose helped secure heightened regulatory protections for

watershed lands, safeguarded New York State waters and forests from gas drilling and pipeline threats, and championed environmental justice by emphasizing prevention of pollution over costly and inequitable remediation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marian Rose also served her community through numerous advisory and leadership roles on conservation boards, wetlands commissions, and regional environmental committees, where her integrity, clarity of purpose, and scientific grounding guided public decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Guided by a lifelong opposition to authoritarianism and environmental exploitation, Dr. Marian Rose remained actively engaged in civic life well into her later years, standing consistently for democratic values, human rights, and the protection of future generations; and

WHEREAS, A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Dr. Marian Rose raised a family deeply committed to carrying forward her values, and she established the Rose Family Foundation to support environmental causes, a mission that continues through her children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her extraordinary contributions, the Town of Bedford proclaimed October 11, 2020, as Marian Rose Day, honoring her century of life and her legendary dedication to environmental protection and public service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marian Rose leaves behind a legacy of scientific excellence, principled activism, and enduring impact on the environmental health of New York State, inspiring generations to act with knowledge, courage, and compassion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Dr. Marian Rose, and to honor her life, achievements, and steadfast commitment to the people, communities, and natural resources of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. Marian Rose.