

Senate Resolution No. 180

**BY:** Senator GRIFFO

**CONGRATULATING** Donald Cantwell, of Barneveld, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday on July 14, 2024

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by citizens of this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Donald Cantwell, of Barneveld, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday on Sunday, July 14, 2024; and

**WHEREAS,** Donald Cantwell, the beloved former Whitesboro Central School music director, celebrated this remarkable milestone with approximately 90 friends, relatives, and former music students who traveled from their homes as far away as New York City and the states of Maryland and Texas; the centenarian was honored at Unity Hall in Barneveld; and

**WHEREAS,** A star pupil has suggested that Donald Cantwell's former students from Whitesboro Central School and Hamilton College attribute their success in life to the music instruction they were fortunate to receive from such an accomplished musician; however, the instructor acknowledges that his single greatest accomplishment is retaining his sense of humor even while facing opposition and adversity; and

**WHEREAS,** Donald Cantwell views humor and music as equally powerful forces, forming the basis of his philosophy on life which names these two dynamics as "weapons of mass instruction"; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout the years, Donald Cantwell has played with renowned jazz musicians, displaying the proof of photos and handwritten messages on the walls of his studio; and

**WHEREAS,** Having lived during the Great Depression and World War II, Donald Cantwell recognizes the difficult times in which we presently live, and he contends that social divides can be bridged by inspiring the sensitivity of creativity and philosophy through music; and

**WHEREAS,** When asked if he had a message for his former students as they navigate this challenging world, Donald Cantwell replied with the hope that they are still practicing their diaphragmatic breathing; and

**WHEREAS,** Donald Cantwell's love for music and instruments is still a

considerable component of his life, and this devoted and talented mentor can be found giving music lessons to students today; and

**WHEREAS,** With his zest for life, Donald Cantwell has inspired and enriched the lives of his family and friends through the profound charm and wisdom which come only from a fullness of years; this exceptional centenarian has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of, and reserved for, those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments, and outstanding achievements of this Nation during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Donald Cantwell, of Barneveld, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday on July 14, 2024; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Donald Cantwell.