Senate Resolution No. 419

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING Soh Young Lee-Segredo upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visionary Awards Gala on March 9, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals whose leadership, advocacy, and artistic contributions have enriched communities, fostered cultural understanding, and advanced the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Soh Young Lee-Segredo upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visionary Awards Gala, to be held on Sunday, March 9, 2025, in celebration of Women's History Month under the theme "Women of Destiny"; and

WHEREAS, Born in Seoul, South Korea, and having lived in Paraguay, Brazil, and Spain, Soh Young Lee-Segredo has dedicated her life to bridging cultures, advocating for diversity, and using the arts as a vehicle for social change; and

WHEREAS, From an early age, she demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership and activism, serving as Vice President of the Red Cross Youth Middle School Division in Seoul, where she developed an understanding of global citizenship and humanitarian service; and

WHEREAS, A multi-faceted artist, educator, and cultural ambassador, Soh Young Lee-Segredo has devoted herself to empowering diverse communities through music, storytelling, education, and advocacy, holding leadership roles as past director of the Multicultural Peace Mission Choir, president of the Korea American Association of Queens, and president of the Multicultural Council of NY; and

WHEREAS, As an advisor for the Gaia Essence Women's Wellness Conference and president of the Asian Pacific American Council of Educators (APACE), Soh Young Lee-Segredo actively amplifies Asian voices, supports Asian teachers and parents, and promotes educational equity; and

WHEREAS, A distinguished performer, Soh Young Lee-Segredo has woven together cultural traditions through music, leading her ensemble, The Soh Young Ensemble, to debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, and earning the KBS Korean Idol NY Competition award in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Soh Young Lee-Segredo has been instrumental in Hofstra University's Annual Celebration of Diversity Gala, serving as Music Coordinator since its inception, as well as a dedicated education coach for the Jackson IB PYP School in the Hempstead Union Free School

District; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, she brought communities together through virtual concerts and online cultural cooking classes for the Queens Public Library, and in collaboration with the Long Island Council of Churches, she delivered food and essential resources to families in need; and

WHEREAS, Soh Young Lee-Segredo's commitment to education and multicultural awareness has been widely recognized, earning her prestigious honors, including the Nassau County MLK Award, NAACP Harlem Chapter Award, Hofstra University Celebration of Diversity Honoree (2013), Legislator Kevin Thomas Women's Award (2023), and the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) Equity, Social Justice Advocacy Award at the 25th Anniversary New Orleans Conference in 2015; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated educator, Soh Young Lee-Segredo was honored as the New York State Association of Bilingual Education (NYSABE) Bilingual Teacher of the Year in 2023, making history as the first Asian educator to receive this award in 45 years; and

WHEREAS, Soh Young Lee-Segredo's advocacy has extended to international platforms, including presenting "Cross the Border" stories at the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference in Korea, representing multicultural educators at the National Endowment for Humanities in Alabama, and participating in global education initiatives in Israel, Turkey, and Korea; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong advocate for library literacy and education, Soh Young Lee-Segredo has dedicated over 35 years of service to the Queens and Long Island libraries, promoting cultural literacy, historical awareness, and the preservation of diverse narratives; and

WHEREAS, Her remarkable achievements have been recognized by civic and governmental leaders, including being awarded the NYC Citizenship Award by former Councilman John Liu and the Certificate of Appreciation from the Queens Public Library for her exceptional contributions to the New Americans Program; and

WHEREAS, Soh Young Lee-Segredo has devoted her life to cultural diplomacy, education, and advocacy, using music, storytelling, and activism to foster understanding, unity, and inclusion among diverse communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Soh Young Lee-Segredo upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visionary Awards Gala, commending her for her extraordinary contributions to the arts, education, and multicultural advocacy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Soh Young Lee-Segredo.