

2013-J706

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ruth Pelham upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Eighth Annual Mary G. Breslin Volunteer Service Award

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ruth Pelham upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Eighth Annual Mary G. Breslin Volunteer Service Award, to be celebrated on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at the George E. Hanner Chapel Cultural Center, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Pelham is a performer, songwriter, educator, advocate, and activist; she is nationally known and is continually recognized by a variety of diverse groups for her work to educate and advocate for people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, Ruth Pelham created what was to be a six-week summer program called Music Mobile; now operating year round, Music Mobile increasingly develops and presents innovative music and creative arts in-school and after-school programs as well as resource materials for teachers, parents, children, and human service professionals; and

WHEREAS, The most visible and central part of the program occurs during the summer when Ruth Pelham and the Music Mobile's staff drive the colorfully decorated Music Mobile van to street corners, parks, public housing sites, schools, libraries, and community centers to gather people young and old who wish to sing together and learn more from her; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Pelham teaches about social responsibility, compassion, environmental awareness, kindness, and mutual understanding; thirty-six years and tens of thousands of people later, Music Mobile remains a vital part of the Capital Region's cultural fabric; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Pelham has won awards including: the James and Pearl Campbell Peace and Justice Award from the Capital Area Council of Churches; Artists Peace Award by Hudson Valley Community College; the Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award presented by the Albany Chapter of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States; the Peer Recognition Award by the Albany Agency Executives Association of the Council of Community Services; and the 20th Century Women of Excellence Award from the Women's Business Council of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ruth Pelham upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Eighth Annual Mary G. Breslin Volunteer Service Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ruth Pelham.