

**STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY**  
**BUFFALO, N.Y., MAY 12TH, 2016 A.D.**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY,** *That at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 12th day of May, 2016 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**WHEREAS,** *The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions of Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Mary Lou Rath has spent over 35 years in public service, including being a member of this honorable body from 1977 to 1993, where she earned the respect and trust of both her constituents and her colleagues and rose to the post of Minority Leader; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Mary Lou Rath's reputation as a voice of reason, role model, and an advocate for the residents of Western New York led to her being elected the first woman to represent the 61<sup>st</sup> District in the New York State Senate where she served with distinction until retiring from that honorable body in 2008; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Mary Lou Rath's legislative legacy is a fighter for quality health care, a champion for women throughout New York State, an advocate to end domestic violence, a tireless supporter to advance smart growth initiatives and quality education for all children; and*

**WHEREAS,** *In addition to her exemplary life in public service, Mary Lou Rath's greatest achievement has been her dedication to family that includes her late husband, Supreme Court Justice Edward A. Rath Jr.; her late father-in-law, Edward A Rath, Erie County's first County Executive; daughters, Allison and Melinda, and her son, Erie County Legislator Edward A. Rath III and daughter-in-law Amy; and her eight grandchildren; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Mary Lou Rath has served her community in leadership roles with many organizations, including the Salvation Army, where she continues to provide inspiration and compassion to her fellow citizens, and because of her untiring efforts as a servant of all people in Erie County will receive the 2016 Woman of Distinction Award from the Erie County Federation of Republican Women.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** *the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and acknowledge Mary Lou Rath for her continued passion for service to her community and to congratulate her on being recognized as the 2016 Woman of Distinction.*