

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 31, 2022

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In Remembrance of Gretchen Shaw Gross

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on December 18, 2021, removed from our midst *Gretchen Shaw Gross* in whose death we have lost a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, valued and respected citizen, prominent leader, and whose family has lost a leader, and a kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, born in Buffalo in 1945, Gretchen was a woman who was loved by all who knew her, and whose untimely death has shaken her community; and

WHEREAS, outside of family, Mrs. Gross was founder, owner and director of the Audubon Child Development Center in its various iterations for 38 years until her retirement in 2012; and

WHEREAS, she lived by the mantra and ran her school by the theme: Nurture every child and every family that comes through the door; and

WHEREAS, Gretchen served as president of the Jewish Community Center for three years, donated the Gretchen S. Gross Omanut (Arts & Crafts) Center at Camp Centerland, served as chair and member of many committees and an officer since 2008; and

WHEREAS, she most recently served as a board member and officer of The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropy, which honored the Grosses for their philanthropy, as did the National Federation for Just Communities. Mrs. Gross was involved in the creation of the new Community Religious School, Temple Beth Zion, the former Bureau of Jewish Education, Hillel at Buffalo, and Kadimah Academy, and was honored by the American Jewish Committee- Buffalo Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gross was a leader in civic service as she was named a Buffalo Business First “Woman of Influence” in 2008, and held memberships with the Association for the Education of Young Children, the prestigious Women’s Presidents Organization, the Ride for Roswell, United Way’s “Success by Six” Advisory Council, and was chair of Kids Voting in Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gross was a recipient of the Buffalo Jewish Federation’s coveted Nathan Benderson Award in 2016 for her philanthropic leadership and her work in education, and chaired several of its committees as well; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, she received the Jewish Community Center's Ralph Kushner Volunteer Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Gretchen's legacy will continue to blossom though her surviving family members including her step-daughters, Debra Gross-Weiner and Sandra Wolchok; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her brother, Craig Shaw; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to the life of *Gretchen Shaw Gross*, whose lifelong dedication to God, family, philanthropy, education and community are an inspiration to be admired, emulated and honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the passing *Gretchen Shaw Gross* and pause in its deliberations to recognize her praiseworthy life, her love of family and for her commitment and to the betterment of our community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature express its sympathy and condolences to the Gross family and to Gretchen's many friends and colleagues, knowing full well that she has received his eternal and glorified reward in Heaven, having heard the consoling words of the Master, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*"

Hon. Jeanne M. Vinal
Erie County Legislator, 5th District

Robert M. Gruber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature