

EC LEG FEB 6 '23 PM 12:52

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Honoring and Recognizing Connie Rose Porter

WHEREAS, *Connie Rose Porter* is a highly decorated African - American writer and well-known teacher of creative writing that proudly represents Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Connie attended both the Lackawanna and Buffalo Public Schools, graduating from City Honors High School; and

WHEREAS, she completed an undergraduate degree at the State University of New York at Albany in 1981 and earned her Masters of Fine Arts degree from Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Connie has taught English and creative writing at Milton Academy and Emerson College in Massachusetts and at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Porter became more interested in works by black writers and about black characters and at the age of 14, she started writing; and

WHEREAS, Connie's first published book, *All-Bright Court*, was selected by the American Library Association as one of the Best Books of 1991; and

WHEREAS, Porter is best known for her contribution to the American Girl Collection Series as the author of the Addy books; and

WHEREAS, six of her Addy books have gone on to sell more than 3 million copies; and

WHEREAS, The Addy Series was voted Best Children's Series of 1993 in the annual Publishers Weekly Cuffie Awards; and

WHEREAS, Porter has been named a Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Fellow and has been awarded as a regional winner in the Grants Best Young American Novelist Competition, the Children's Book Council Children's Choice Award, and the International Reading Association Children's Choice Award; and

WHEREAS, during her free time, Connie still reads science books for relaxation, and listens and sings along to Broadway show tunes; and

WHEREAS, despite her encounters with racism and sexism, Connie's hard work and perseverance has earned respect locally and nationally as shown by her numerous professional recognitions and millions of books sold; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body desires to acknowledge and recognize individuals such as, *Connie Rose Porter*, whose dedication to the representation and expansion of Black woman and girls in children's literature has resulted in the more diverse images we see today across our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that with the utmost respect and admiration, the Erie County Legislature hereby recognizes and congratulates, *Connie Rose Porter* for her outstanding accomplishments as a highly-decorated African American woman in creative writing and offers our deepest appreciation for her dedicated work and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

Hon. April N.M. Baskin
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District
Chair of the Erie County Legislature