

2009-J4733

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to Alan and Sandra Gerry as they are honored by the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan at its 10th Anniversary Celebration on April 29, 2010

WHEREAS, Individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to Alan and Sandra Gerry as they are honored by the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan at its 10th Anniversary Celebration, to be held at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor, New York on April 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, The Gerry Foundation and Sullivan Renaissance, inseparable from this distinguished couple, will also be honored by the Community Foundation on this special occasion; and

WHEREAS, Alan Gerry, a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, was the founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Cablevision Industries Corporation (CVI); after nearly four decades in the cable television business, he directed the nation's largest privately owned cable company, operating 64 cable systems in 18 states, with over 1.3 million subscribers at year-end 1995, and employing more than 2,500 people; and

WHEREAS, One of the first entrepreneurs to respond to demands for a greater number of channels and improved reception in areas where off-air television reception was unsatisfactory due to topography or remoteness from broadcast towers, a true cable pioneer, Alan Gerry built his first such "classic" cable television system in 1956 in Liberty, New York, where he still maintains his corporate offices; and

WHEREAS, Alan Gerry, even as the company grew significantly, insisted that CVI remain in close touch with its subscribers providing consistently outstanding customer service which routinely surpassed industry

standards; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer from a technical standpoint as well, being among the first to use fiber, his innovative use of microwave technology helped make large-area rural cable systems economical and extended cable's reach; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the market demands for enhanced media products and the constantly changing dynamics of the telecommunications landscape, Alan Gerry merged CVI with Time Warner, the nation's second largest cable operator, on January 4, 1996; and

WHEREAS, One of the nation's entrepreneurial leaders, in 1996 he founded Granite Associates, L.P., a private investment company of which he continues to serve as Chairman and C.E.O.; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the establishment of Granite Associates, Alan Gerry created a foundation which bears his family's name, the Gerry Foundation, with one of its principal goals being the revitalization of the economy of Sullivan County; one of its first initiatives in 1996 was the purchase of the property where the original Woodstock Festival was held in 1969 and several hundred surrounding acres for the purpose of building an arts and entertainment complex which has, as he and his wife Sandra intended, attracted visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Alan Gerry has, fittingly, been honored many times by a wide variety of organizations and institutions in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding professional accomplishments and for his involvement and support of numerous community and charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, Alan Gerry serves on the Board of Trustees of Syracuse University and of the Guthrie Health Care System in Sayre, Pennsylvania and the National Cable Center; Catskill Regional Medical Center; the Paul Gerry Dialysis Center at the Robert Packer Hospital, established in

honor of his late brother; the Alan Gerry Chair of Orthopedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School; the Alan Gerry Endowed Scholar Program at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Alan and Sandra Gerry Metastasis

Research Center at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center are among the many worthy programs, organizations and causes which have benefited from his interest, involvement and generous support; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Gerry, an educator and former teacher, began Sullivan Renaissance in the belief that residents can enhance the appearance of Sullivan County while building community pride and spirit; and

WHEREAS, Now entering its tenth year, under her leadership, Sullivan Renaissance has grown into a year-round community development program involving thousands of volunteers from all of Sullivan County's 15 towns; in addition to grants for beautification efforts, Sullivan

Renaissance has programs which work directly with municipalities, businesses and seasonal communities in addition to its monthly educational seminars and Summer internship programs for youth; and

WHEREAS, In 2007 Sullivan Renaissance initiated a "green focus" bringing together organizations and businesses which have been working on sustainable development and environmental needs; its innovative initiatives have included the installation of solar lampposts, the testing of alternative energy vehicles and the development of community vegetable gardens in non-traditional neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, In addition to beautification and environmental efforts, Sandra Gerry has been a valued and integral part of the Sullivan County Community College Foundation's scholarship fund and its Annual Scholarship Benefit Gala; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Gerry is also Director of Allocations for the Beavercreek Foundation established by Alan and Sandra Gerry to assist charitable causes in Sullivan County; she serves, as well, on the board of the Gerry Foundation, Inc., the family foundation established in part to benefit the county economy by successfully developing the world class performing arts center, Bethel Woods, at the site of the original Woodstock Festival in Bethel; and

WHEREAS, Individuals, such as Alan and Sandra Gerry, who have given unstintingly of their time, leadership and support are an asset beyond

remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Alan and Sandra Gerry have displayed throughout their lives; they exemplify the true spirit of the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan and merit the recognition of all the people of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to Alan and Sandra Gerry as they are honored by the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan at its 10th Anniversary Celebration on April 29, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alan and Sandra Gerry.