

2013-J2522

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Montezuma Historical Society upon the occasion of the dedication of the historic marker for the Mentz Church and Cemetery, on June 2, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those organizations which seek to bring recognition to historical places within the State of New York, and in so doing, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Montezuma Historical Society upon the occasion of the dedication of the historic marker for the Mentz Church and Cemetery, celebrated at its 7th Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 2, 2013, Montezuma, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Mentz Church in the Town of Montezuma, Cayuga County, has been a treasured landmark in its community for nearly 190 years; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated on May 14, 1825, as the Mentz Methodist Episcopal Church, it served the worship needs of residents from the Baptist, Methodist and Protestant faiths until it fell into disuse in the 1950s; this humble but important church is surrounded on three sides by more than 200 graves of the town's original settlers; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, the Town of Montezuma assumed ownership of the Mentz Church and, the following year, the church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, The Montezuma Historical Society, chartered in 2006, evolved out of the preservation committee formed to facilitate the restoration of the Mentz Church; now restored, the church serves as the home of Montezuma Historical Society, thriving once again as a community institution; and

WHEREAS, The dedication of this historic roadside marker represents the final stage of the Mentz Church's revitalization; denoting the church, its cemetery and the first trustees, John Gilmore, William Bell, and James Weston, the marker serves the dual purpose of educating the public about the area's rich past, and fostering historic tourism, a potential economic boon to towns and villages across this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the Montezuma Historical Society, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Montezuma Historical Society upon the occasion of the dedication of the historic marker for the Mentz Church and Cemetery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Montezuma Historical Society.