

2013-K690

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 225th Anniversary of the Town of Cortlandt, New York, in 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize events of significance which exemplify the history and development of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Each and every city, town, village and hamlet within its borders proudly resonates with the rich and noble history of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate the anniversary of the founding of municipalities throughout the State, noting in turn their contributions to the fabric and progression of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the Town of Cortlandt, New York, in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Located in the northwestern corner of Westchester County, the Town of Cortlandt, New York, derived its name from the Van Cortlandt family who began purchasing land in 1677 from the Croton River north to Anthony's Nose and east to Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Cortlandt, New York, was the site of many skirmishes during the Revolutionary War; local roads, such as Watch Hill and Furnace Dock Road, where the furnaces that made ammunition for the war effort were located, bear names reflecting the Revolutionary time; and

WHEREAS, In 1788, under the Township Act, Cortlandt became one of 20 townships in Westchester County with Philip Van Cortlandt as the first Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, The Bear Mountain Bridge Road and Toll House in the Town of

Cortlandt, New York, are of major historical importance; they are listed together on the National Register of Historic Places; they were once privately owned and tolls for their use were collected at the Bear Mountain Road Toll House and at the Bridge itself; and

WHEREAS, The Bear Mountain Bridge opened to traffic in 1924, and was the first bridge to span the Hudson River between Albany and New York City; and

WHEREAS, The one-story Tudor-style Toll House has a gabled slate roof, exposed timbers, and smooth stucco finish; the west bay of the Toll House housed the office and collection area for tolls; in 1940, the Bridge and Road were sold to the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The Toll House currently serves at the trailhead for the Camp Smith Trail, a 2.5-mile hike that leads to the top of Anthony's Nose; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Town of Cortlandt has been named the first Purple Heart Town in New York State by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Veterans Chapter 21; and

WHEREAS, This proclamation honors the many residents who have been wounded or killed defending our great nation's liberties since the birth of our nation; it is a tribute to active duty military and veterans alike for their faithful service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, The Purple Heart Town designation for the Town of Cortlandt acknowledges what the veterans and citizens of Cortlandt have always said and lived by, "That Freedom is not Free"; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the rich history and enduring contribution of the Town of Cortlandt to the heritage of the State of New York, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to join in commemorating the 225th Anniversary of the Town of Cortlandt so that present and future gener-

ations may come to appreciate the unique significance which its history plays in the progression of our State and Nation's evolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the Town of Cortlandt, New York, in 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Town of Cortlandt, New York.