

2013-J2801

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing the Rome Capitol Theatre upon the occasion of its 85th Anniversary Show to be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor individuals and organizations who give freely of their time and talents, all the while working to make their communities better places to live, work, play and thrive; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize the Rome Capitol Theatre upon the occasion of its 85th Anniversary Show to be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Rome Capitol Theatre's 85th Anniversary Show commemorates the Capitol's December 1928 opening by recreating a movie bill that originally ran at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The Theatre's inaugural program consisted of two Vitaphone sound short subjects, a travelogue, a newsreel, and the feature film "Lilac Time" - starring Colleen Moore and Gary Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Although equipped with a stage, an orchestra pit, and six dressing rooms, the Capitol was designed primarily as a motion picture house; the Capitol Grand Organ was used during opening night to accompany the (silent) newsreel, to play entrance and exit music, and to provide the accompaniment to an audience sing-along; and

WHEREAS, The Capitol was operated strictly as a movie house for the first 46 years of its existence, although live acts occasionally shared the bill with the on-screen program; and

WHEREAS, In February of 1929, Art Kahn's Orchestra became the first celebrity act to appear, and in April of that year, Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys, including a young Bing Crosby, played the theatre with the

California Ramblers and other acts; and for a few years beginning in the early 1930s, Paramount and RKO unit vaudeville was featured two or three times per week, and among the swing bands heard from the Capitol stage in the 1940s were those led by Paul Whiteman and the Dorsey Brothers; and

WHEREAS, The Capitol closed as a movie house in 1974, and for the next several years the building was used only occasionally for traveling shows; the theater reopened as the Capitol Civic Center in 1985, and in 2012, there were more than 120 performances at the Capitol covering a wide variety of entertainments, including concerts, live stage musicals and dramas, children's theatre, independent film screenings, classic talking movies and silent movies with live organ accompaniment; and WHEREAS, Development of the Capitol is ongoing, and future plans include the restoration of the theater to its 1939 era, and the creation of a multi-venue arts complex, incorporating three additional buildings; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the Rome Capitol Theatre upon the occasion of its 85th Anniversary Show, and for all the time and talent the Theatre collectively dedicates to its community and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Rome Capitol Theatre.