

## 2013-K755

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the City of Elmira, New York, to be celebrated January 18, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the proud and distinguished histories of the cities and villages which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, The year 2014 marks the 150th Anniversary of the City of Elmira; to recognize this auspicious milestone, a celebration will be held at The Clemens Center on Saturday, January 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Elmira, New York has always been a place with a vast and rich history; it has also been the home of many famous people; and

WHEREAS, Known originally as the Township of Chemung, in 1808 the village officially changed its name to the Town of Elmira at a town meeting held at Teal's Tavern; according to legend, Elmira is named after the tavern owner's daughter; known as "The Queen City," Elmira was incorporated in 1864; and

WHEREAS, By the late 19th Century, Elmira was a major transportation hub, connecting commercial centers in Rochester and Buffalo with Albany and New York City; this was made possible by the construction of the Chemung Canal (completed in 1833), Junction Canal connecting Elmira and Corning, and the New York and Erie Railroads; and

WHEREAS, Due to its close proximity to Canada, Elmira played an important role in the Underground Railroad; during the Civil War, Elmira hosted a prisoner-of-war camp, dubbed "Hellmira" by the inmates due to poor living conditions; and

WHEREAS, Some notable people who have lived in Elmira are John W. Jones, who was a key player in the Underground Railroad and buried the deceased inmates of the POW camp; Samuel Clemens, also known as Mark Twain, was married to a local Elmira woman and wrote many of his books

there; and Ernie Davis, the first African-American athlete to win the Heisman Trophy; in addition, Elmira has been the home of Eileen Collins, Tommy Hilfiger, Hal Roach and Brian Williams; and WHEREAS, Elmira has always been on the forefront of industry and education; Elmira College, ID Booth, Chemung Canal Trust Company and H. Strauss Clothier as well as others have been here from the beginning; and

WHEREAS, Of historic origin, and remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the City of Elmira continues to provide the quintessential quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, The residents of the City of Elmira have a bright outlook for the future of their community, which remains a beautiful place in which to live and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the City of Elmira's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited city upon the occasion of its 150th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the City of Elmira, and to enthusiastically salute its residents as they celebrate this auspicious occasion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the City of Elmira.