

2013-J3303

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Robert Bacon Memorial Library, Westbury, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Robert Bacon Memorial Library to be celebrated on Saturday, June 21, 2014 in Westbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, The library first opened its doors on June 24, 1924; it was a gift to the Westbury community by the Bacon family in memory of Colonel Robert Bacon, the Secretary of State and Ambassador to France under President Theodore Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, After Colonel Bacon's death in 1919, his widow, Martha, wanted to pay tribute to her husband in keeping with his desire to be an inspiration and to awaken big ambition in young people; it was then that Martha Bacon decided to build a memorial library dedicated to children; and

WHEREAS, Martha Bacon hired local architect Julian Peabody to design the library and used Colonel Bacon's library at Old Acres, the Bacon estate in Old Westbury, as a model; the fireplace and mantel are replicas of one in the French Embassy in Paris; inscribed in gold letters on the mantel is the French motto Colonel Bacon often repeated to his family: "Cherchez la ligne du beau," meaning "Seek the line of the beautiful"; and

WHEREAS, As well as the building, Mrs. Bacon donated gifts of art to the children's library; on permanent display is a collection of rare

wooden birds carved by Elmer Crowell; other valuable objects include an original letter by Beatrix Potter and paintings by Kate Greenaway, Leslie Brook, Arthur Rackham and Newel C. Wyeth; and

WHEREAS, The children's library was originally privately endowed and operated as an independent institution for 40 years; in 1965, it became incorporated with the Westbury Memorial Public Library; and

WHEREAS, The original building was renovated in 2005, and now includes a mural by Sal and Nancy Moccia reflecting the folktales of the cultural background of the children of Westbury; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Robert Bacon Memorial Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported the development of the library over the years; one of these individuals was Jacqueline Overton who, although originally intending to stay for six months preparing for the library's opening, continued on for 25 years of faithful service; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Robert Bacon Memorial Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the Westbury community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Robert Bacon Memorial Library, Westbury, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Robert Bacon Memorial Library.