

2013-J3477

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 145th Anniversary of the Mohonk Mountain House

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those prominent businesses of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 145th Anniversary of the Mohonk Mountain House; this auspicious milestone was celebrated on January 29, 2014 at the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce's Annual Breakfast held at Garden Plaza Hotel in Kingston, New York; and

WHEREAS, Nina Smiley, current Owner and Marketing Director, and Jackie Appeldorn, Mohonk Mountain House General Manager both were Guest Speakers at the celebration; and

WHEREAS, Founded by Albert Smiley in 1869, The Mohonk Mountain House is a national historic landmark resort located along the Shawangunk Ridge in Ulster County, New York; its prominent location in the Town of New Paltz is just beyond the southern border of the Catskill Mountains on the western side of the Hudson River; two important policy conferences of domestic and international significance have taken place at the hotel; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the 10-room inn and tavern evolved into the grand Mohonk Mountain House it is today, with gracious accommodations for 600 guests, and has hosted more than a century's worth of distinguished guests, some of which include: naturalists, theologians, and business leaders, as well as award-winning actors, artists, authors, and musicians; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, five Presidents of the United States have been guests at the Mohonk Mountain House, including: Chester A. Arthur, Ruth-erford B. Hayes, William Howard Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, and William Jefferson Clinton; and

WHEREAS, This legendary Victorian castle resort stretches nearly an eighth of a mile along sweeping lawns and vivid, award-winning gardens; it has 266 guest rooms, including 28 tower rooms, an indoor pool and spa, and an outdoor ice-skating rink for winter use; and

WHEREAS, The crown jewel of Mohonk is its award-winning Spa, which has been honored by several prestigious travel publications each year; the Spa was named No. 1 Resort Spa in the United States by CONDE NAST TRAV-ELER MAGAZINE, and No. 2 Spa in the United States by TRAVEL AND LEISURE MAGAZINE; among its many auspicious awards, Mohonk was named one of the World's Best Places to Stay by CONDE NAST TRAVELER MAGAZINE in 2012; and

WHEREAS, The property has been owned and operated by descendants of the Smiley brothers since its inception; throughout the years, members of the Smiley family have found notable ways to contribute to the goals of Mohonk Mountain House; Daniel Smiley established a natural science research center on the property; Keith Smiley convened Mohonk Consulta-tions to confer on issues related to the environment; and Ruth Smiley was tireless in her efforts to interpret nature for guests; and

WHEREAS, Mohonk Mountain House continues the tradition of promoting conversation and environmental awareness with Mohonk Consultations, a not-for-profit group supporting the appreciation of all relationships of life on earth, and connecting people and the planet through public awards, forums, conferences, and other public meetings; and

WHEREAS, Since its beginning, the Mohonk Mountain House has effec-tively carried out its mission to provide opportunities for recreation

and renewal of the body, mind, and spirit in a beautiful natural setting; in doing so, the resort created a class titled, Mindfulness in Minutes, which offers simple techniques for building mental muscle,

which reduces stress and enhances the well-being of the participants;

and

WHEREAS, Nina Smiley, whose husband's family started the resort, has managed to maintain its 19th Century charm while introducing numerous luxurious amenities of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, the Mohonk Mountain House's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 145th Anniversary of the Mohonk Mountain House; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Nina Smiley, owner, Mohonk Mountain House.