

2013-J3479

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Tifereth Yehuda Veyisroel Synagogue of Kerhonkson, New York, upon the occasion of its placement on the National and State Registers of Historic Places

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to honor Tifereth Yehuda Veyisroel Synagogue of Kerhonkson, New York, upon the occasion of its placement on the National and State Registers of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Tifereth Yehuda Veyisroel, meaning "Beauty of Judah and Israel," is a small nondenominational community serving over 40 families from a variety of Jewish traditions; and

WHEREAS, This Kerhonkson synagogue was established in 1922, to serve the Jewish farmers and merchants in the southern Ulster County area; many of its members trace their roots to Ashkenazi Jews who emigrated from Eastern Europe to Kerhonkson to escape persecution; and

WHEREAS, In 1923, kosher butcher Louis Spiegel donated land to the community and the following year, its members erected a beautiful new structure; it would serve as the spiritual home for Tifereth Yehuda Veyisroel over the next 90 years; and

WHEREAS, The building is an intimate space, with beautiful stained glass windows and a large Star of David crowning its facade; its architecture is unique in combining features characteristic of Eastern European Orthodox synagogues with forms and materials typical of the Catskills area; and

WHEREAS, Tifereth Yehuda Veyisroel is one of only 32 synagogues recognized in the State of New York as worthy for this historic designation; though facing many challenges in maintaining the 90 year old structure, its members are proud to continue the traditions of their Jewish forebears in the area; and

WHEREAS, The congregation is ably led by Reb Sally Shore-Wittenberg, a devoted spiritual leader who has brought much warmth and enthusiasm to her community; and

WHEREAS, Tifereth Yehuda Veyisroel stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Tifereth Yehuda Veyisroel Synagogue of Kerhonkson, New York, upon the occasion of its placement on the National and State Registers of Historic Places; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reb Sally Shore-Wittenberg, Tifereth Yehuda Veyisroel Synagogue of Kerhonkson, New York.