

2013-J3666

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca, 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Tompkins County Public Library to be celebrated at a ceremony on April 4, 2014, at the library's Gallery Opening Night; and

WHEREAS, The Cornell Public Library Association was chartered in 1864, after Ezra Cornell gifted a new public library, to the community of Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ezra Cornell personally contributed 3,000 volumes, with the stipulation that he would add 1,000 volumes each year for 12 years; many other community members also donated books to the library and circulation officially began on March 4, 1867; and

WHEREAS, The auspicious institution included a library room with a capacity for holding 30,000 volumes, reading areas, Library Hall, and space for community organizations and local businesses including the First National Bank; and

WHEREAS, On November 21, 1866, Andrew Dickson White was elected the first president of Cornell University at a meeting held in the First National Bank; Cornell's Board of Trustees held their events there for the next twenty years; on October 7, 1868, in Library Hall, Cornell University celebrated its Inauguration Day; and

WHEREAS, After serving the community for many years the Cornell Library was incorporated into the Tompkins County Public Library by the New York State Board of Regents; its full charter was granted on June 29, 1973; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, the Tompkins County Library opened at its current location at the corner of Green and Cayuga Streets; its amenities and programs include a Health Information Center, art displays, Spanish story time, and the Discovery Trail Partnership collaboration among seven museums and the library; and

WHEREAS, The Tompkins County Public Library is a core community service for the over 100,000 residents of Tompkins County, and is a central library for the Finger Lakes Library System; and

WHEREAS, It proudly provides free and open access to services, resources, and programs which foster literacy, cultural appreciation and personal growth and community connections; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Tompkins County Public Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported its development over the years; and

WHEREAS, Equally commendable are the Library's superbly-skilled staff, whose involvement is and has always been characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all of their efforts on behalf of the library and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Tompkins County Public 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 community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the Tompkins County Public Library.