

2013-J3862

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Bayside Historical Society

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the efforts of organizations which seek to illuminate historical time periods, places and events within the State of New York and, in so doing, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved, to be shared with present and future generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in keeping with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Bayside Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, The Bayside Historical Society was founded in 1964 to collect, preserve, and disseminate information concerning the history of Bayside, Queens, and its adjacent communities; to advocate for preservation and protection of its most historic structures and distinctive neighborhoods through the landmark designation process; and to strive to develop a broad constituency of community members intent on protecting the historic integrity of its neighborhoods and collections; and

WHEREAS, The birth of the Bayside Historical Society was the culmination of the work of several committees including the Bayside Beautification Committee, initiated by its founder, Joseph H. Brown (1892-1974), whose aims were the beautification and protection of the environment and community in which he lived, and to awaken civic pride in Bayside's long history; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, under Joseph H. Brown's leadership, the Bayside Historical Society was officially founded by a small group of residents with three goals: the preservation and restoration of the Lawrence Family Cemetery, Alley Pond, and Fort Totten; and

WHEREAS, With those goals accomplished, the Bayside Historical Society went on to also be instrumental in obtaining New York City landmark designation status for the c. 1887 Castle in Fort Totten Park where the Society has made its home since 1984; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, in 1986, the Castle was listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Through the stewardship of the Bayside Historical Society, the Castle has undergone a complete interior renovation and exterior restoration; today, the Society at the Castle is a learning destination for both school groups and the general public, a resource for community groups and researchers, and a venue for the visual and performing arts; and

WHEREAS, Each year it offers exhibits, educational programs, and public programs including lectures, concerts, workshops, art classes, tours, and access to an archival collection of more than 10,000 photographs, papers, ephemera, correspondence, oral histories, and objects which document the development of this locale over the past 300 years; and

WHEREAS, The quality and character of New York State are greatly enhanced by institutions which engage communities in the exploration of New York's history and culture, instilling in them a deep appreciation for the richness and breadth of our cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the Bayside Historical Society, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a place and time which merit recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Bayside Historical Society; and be it further

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

mitted to the Bayside Historical Society.