

2013-J3950

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Grant Holcomb upon the occasion of his retirement as the Mary W. and Donald R. Clark Director of the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester after 28 years of distinguished leadership and service

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Grant Holcomb upon the occasion of his retirement as the Mary W. and Donald R. Clark Director of the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester after 28 years of distinguished leadership and service; he will officially step down from his position effective July 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Grant Holcomb is the sixth director of the University of Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery; he assumed the directorship in 1985 and, over the ensuing three decades, has built a singular legacy of quality, character and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Grant Holcomb's commitment to sharing the art experience with everyone, regardless of background, translated into innovative collaborative partnerships with cultural, educational, and medical organizations, including Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Garth Fagan Dance, George Eastman House, University of Rochester Medical Center, the ARC of Monroe, and the Alzheimer's Association; these and other enterprises kept the gallery an active leader for public engagement; and

WHEREAS, Under Grant Holcomb's visionary direction, the Memorial Art Gallery initiated high-profile exhibitions featuring the work of Maxfield Parrish, Edgar Degas, Georgia O'Keefe, and Jacob Lawrence; the gallery also acquired works of art ranging from an ancient Egyptian

sarcophagus and a Renaissance suit of armor, to pieces by such noted 19th and 20th-century artists as Albert Bierstadt, Leonard Volk, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, and Christian Boltanski; and

WHEREAS, Grant Holcomb changed and enhanced the buildings and grounds of the Memorial Art Gallery; he oversaw the addition of the Vanden Brul Pavilion early in his tenure, which established a new indoor art space and main Gallery entrance, and recently saw the completion of Centennial Sculpture Park; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Grant Holcomb was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; his leadership fostered an unparalleled environment of dedication and commitment among the Memorial Art Gallery's community of board members, staff, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Grant Holcomb received his Bachelor of Arts degree in American History from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his master's and doctoral degrees in Art History from the University of Delaware; he taught at Mount Holyoke College from 1972 to 1979 before returning to California to begin his museum career at the San Diego Museum of Art where he served as curator and later Assistant Director; and

WHEREAS, Well-known and widely respected in his field, Grant Holcomb has written a number of articles, essays and exhibition catalogs on 19th and 20th century American Art, and in 2009 curated the exhibition, LINCOLN IN ROCHESTER, at the Memorial Art Gallery; he was a Kress Fellow at the National Gallery of Art, and has been the recipient of fellowships and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Arts, Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum and the New York State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of

the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Grant Holcomb upon the occasion of his retirement as the Mary W. and Donald R. Clark Director of the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester after 28 years of distinguished leadership and service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Grant Holcomb.