

## 2013-J4037

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the Chuang Yen Monastery and commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Buddhist Association of the United States

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Buddhist Association of the United States, and to honor its past and present contributions for 50 years of being a community center for learning and activities; and

WHEREAS, The Chuang Yen Monastery as the home of the Buddhist Association of the United States, is situated on 225 acres of land in the Town of Kent, Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, In November of 1975, the Buddhist Association of the United States leased 125 acres of land for 99 years with an annual payment of one dollar in Putnam County, New York, from Dr. C.T. Shen for the future development of Chuang Yen Monastery; and

WHEREAS, The ground-breaking ceremony for the Chuang Yen Monastery was held on May 23, 1981, and as suggested by the local government, Dr. C.T. Shen donated the land to the Buddhist Association of the United States in 1989; and

WHEREAS, The Chuang Yen Monastery is comprised of the Great Buddha Hall, Kuan-Yin Hall, a Dining Hall, Yin-Kuang Hall, Thousand Lotus Memorial Terrace, Tai-Hsu Hall, Seven Jewels Lake, and the Woo-Ju Library; and

WHEREAS, Most of the temple buildings are built in the architectural style of China's Tang Dynasty; and

WHEREAS, Buddhist Monasteries not only have traditionally served as a focus for religious services and festivals but also as community centers of learning and activities; and

WHEREAS, These community service contributions include an annual

Interfaith Prayer Service on New Year's Day to promote mutual understanding among all religions, free book distribution, programs for schools, and donations to senior centers, fire departments, and food banks; and

WHEREAS, Chuang Yen Monastery extends an invitation to the public to view the religious services and festivals held there and is committed to being a location to cultivate awareness to develop wisdom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the Chuang Yen Monastery and to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Buddhist Association of the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Chuang Yen Monastery, and the Buddhist Association of the United States, Carmel, New York.