

2013-J4277

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Congress to enact H.R. 863 and S. 398, relating to the creation of a National Women's History Museum

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of New York State to encourage passage of federal legislation to improve New York State, allow for better representation of the State's citizens on a national level and generally enhance the quality of life of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Proposed bill H.R. 863/S. 398, the National Women's History Museum Commission Act of 2013, which would establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, would further these laudable goals; and

WHEREAS, The creation of a National Women's History Museum would be nationally significant and acknowledge and promote the myriad contributions women have made and will continue to make to this nation, which are often underrepresented in historical accounts; and

WHEREAS, Passage of this proposal would additionally set an example worldwide, by ensuring proper recognition be given to the historical influence women have on all aspects of society, and would therefore benefit and improve the lives of all women of the world; and

WHEREAS, Currently, women's historical contributions are largely missing from textbooks and other educational materials; a recent survey of 18 history textbooks found that only ten percent of the individuals identified and discussed in the books were women; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of memorials and other acknowledgments of honor and pivotal involvement in the progress of our nation disproportionately recognize men, with only 13 of the 210 statues at the United States Capitol memorializing female leaders, and only five percent of the 2,400 national historic landmarks chronicling the accomplishments of women; and

WHEREAS, The creation of a National Women's History Museum would change this unfortunate situation by telling the largely untold stories of women who played significant roles in the creation and development of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, With the creation of a National Women's History Museum, women of historical significance will finally receive the recognition to which they are entitled, such as Agent 355, the mysterious woman who sent vital information to General George Washington during the Revolutionary War which was instrumental in our victory; Hedy Lamarr, an actor who invented a radio-guided torpedo which contained the technology that gave rise to the cellphone, Wi-Fi and GPS; Stephanie Kwolek, who invented Kevlar fibers, five times stronger than steel when woven together and credited with revolutionizing the automotive industry through the creation of lightweight, puncture-resistant tires and law enforcement through the invention of bullet-proof garments, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Numerous museums exist in Washington, DC, that honor groups of people or subject areas which influenced America, thanks in part to acts of Congress, including the National Postal Museum, the National Museum of Buildings, and the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum; and

WHEREAS, This museum will not become a burden to the federal government or to taxpayers as it will be funded entirely through private donations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to enact H.R. 863 and S. 398, relating to the creation of a National Women's History Museum; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker

of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Congress of the United States from the State of New York.