

2013-J4337

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of Father Peter G. Young's outstanding service in the ministry on April 5, 2014

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in the Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of Father Peter G.

Young's outstanding service in the ministry at a Festival of Praise on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at The Schuyler Inn, Menands, New York; and

WHEREAS, Father Peter G. Young began his ministry as a young parish priest in one of Albany's poorest neighborhoods; in the late 1950s, when he worked as Chaplain of the Albany County Jail, and later in the 1970s, as Chaplain at the Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility, he adopted the philosophy that would guide his life's work; and

WHEREAS, Father Peter G. Young is the Founder and Volunteer Chief Executive Officer of Peter Young Housing, Industries and Treatment (PYHIT) and its subsidiary organizations, his statewide network of treatment, housing and education/employment programs; the avowed mission of PYHIT is to create taxpayers and provide the dignity that comes with a meaningful job and paycheck; and

WHEREAS, "Rehabilitate, don't incarcerate!" is the blueprint Father

Peter G. Young followed during the 55 years he spent helping individuals struggling to stay out of prison and free themselves from addiction; and WHEREAS, Using the Albany area as a home base, Father Young has helped thousands of people reclaim their lives and look forward to futures by means of his "glide path" philosophy which has three components: recovery, housing, and jobs; and

WHEREAS, Like a pilot who lands his plane on an aircraft carrier by following a glide path, critical direction comes from the support team at PYHIT, the glide path for those dealing with addictions to become employed, tax-paying citizens with careers, families, friendships, and futures; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer in alcohol treatment, Father Young developed the first alcohol crisis center and extended care unit in New York State; he founded the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Program within the Department of Corrections and this program, which provided a place to live, job training and therapy, has served as a model for treatment across the state and country; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of Father Young's vocational program is based on his "Three Legged Stool" approach which includes treatment, training and placement provided by Altamont Program, Inc.; this program has resulted in a four-year-graduate recidivism rate of less than 10 percent; and

WHEREAS, Father Young's programs also make proficient use of his "Wounded Healer" philosophy based on the belief that those who have succeeded in recovery can best extend their hand to the next person and help them begin the process; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his duties as a parish priest and pastor, Father Young has taught in high school, served as a chaplain for various associations and in the prison system, founded dozens of organizations involved with treatment, housing shelters, and recovery services; in 2001, he was ranked number two in the Top Ten New Yorkers Survey as

conducted by the EMPIRE STATE REPORT; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Siena College, Father Young attended seminary at St. Bonaventure University and in Ottawa after serving his country as a member of the United States Navy during the Korean War; he was at one time, a priest teaching eight periods at the parish school in the most crime-ridden part of Albany every day; and

WHEREAS, He is also known as a catalyst, an innovator and servant, using the strengths of his personality: exuberance, passion, humor, and persistence to lead the charge for reforms and humane treatment for the impoverished, the addicted and the socially disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, Father Peter G. Young has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of Father Peter G. Young's outstanding service in the ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Father Peter G. Young.