

2013-J4384

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 56th Anniversary of the Friendship Baptist Church of Ferndale, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 56th Anniversary of the Friendship Baptist Church of Ferndale, New York; this momentous occasion was honored with an Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 27, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Friendship Baptist Church was organized in 1957 by Reverend Smythe who served as the church's first Pastor; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Friendship Baptist Church has seen many dedicated Pastors, as well as substantial membership growth and church upgrades; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Reverend Harry L. Brown, Jr., Pastor since April 10, 2011, the Friendship Baptist Church has seen significant spiritual growth and development, as well as the enhancement of the quality of life of church members, their families, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, In addition, a Pebbles of Hope Youth Ministry was instituted, which trains and develops youth in positive communication and leadership skills both in and out of the church community; and

WHEREAS, Friendship Baptist Church holds annual Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Wednesday night Bible Study and Prayer Meetings, a Liturgical Dance Ministry for youth, monthly Holy Communion, Baptism and

New Members Training; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in an effort to give back to the community, Friendship Baptist Church serves free dinner daily, as well as a free Thanksgiving Dinner Outreach and Christmas Caroling Outreach at Catskill Regional Hospital and throughout the community during the Holiday Season; and

WHEREAS, Friendship Baptist Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 56th Anniversary of the Friendship Baptist Church of Ferndale, New York, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Harry L. Brown, Jr., Senior Pastor, Friendship Baptist Church.