

2013-J4612

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Arc of Steuben on May 13, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Arc of Steuben, to be celebrated at their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Steuben is a chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children (NYSARC), Inc.; for the past fifty years it has faithfully supported people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Steuben County area; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed partnership of residential, habilitation and vocational programs and services has committed itself to helping provide personalized opportunities, advocacy and assistance for people with disabilities, helping them to realize their full potential in a positive atmosphere of encouragement and achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Steuben was founded in 1964, when local parents advocating for the education of their children, each of whom had a disability, organized the formation of the Steuben County Chapter of NYSARC; due to the advocacy efforts of this newly founded organization, the first class for children with developmental disabilities was held in September 1965 through BOCES; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, this pioneering organization inaugurated its first Day Training program, open to any child who was labeled as "retarded";

these classes were offered to the public until 1980, when BOCES began offering programs for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, the Arc of Steuben initiated its residential and vocational programs with the goal of teaching people daily living skills, job skills and social skills; its first such program was Services East in Bath, New York, followed by Services West in Hornell, New York; the two were combined in 1977, and moved to its present location in Bath; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, the Arc of Steuben created its renowned transportation division, which currently operates a fleet of 100 vehicles that provides transportation services to approximately 400 people daily; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, this remarkable organization continued to embody its vision by exploring new ways of serving the public and creating an environment in which people of all abilities are welcomed, involved, and valued; and

WHEREAS, New residences in Wayland and Corning were added in 1979, and the Family Support Program was started in 1985; furthermore, the Service Coordination Division was created in 1993, to provide individualized advocacy, referral and early intervention service coordination; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Steuben Foundation was established in 1998, helping the group enter the 21st Century with a plan for sustaining its worthy work in the future; its outstanding board of directors, experienced in finance, law, marketing, public relations, and community service, oversaw the establishment of an endowment fund in the foundation's first year; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Arc of Steuben's services were further expanded to include a satellite clinic offering speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and social work; StArcky U was created

in 2011, offering classes for those seeking to pursue new interests and continue their education; and

WHEREAS, This fine institution has received numerous awards and acco-

lades for its lifetime of service to the developmentally disabled; the Arc of Steuben was named Non-Profit of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Bath Area and also achieved Gold-level recognition in the Empire State Advantage program; and

WHEREAS, In so effectively carrying out its mission, the Arc of Steuben has demonstrated the value of helping people with disabilities achieve their dreams and lead happy and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Arc of Steuben; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Arc of Steuben.