

2013-K1178

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the 1964 World's Fair in Queens' Flushing Meadows Park

WHEREAS, Each and every city, town, village and hamlet within its borders proudly resonates with the rich and noble history of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize events of significance which exemplify the history and development of the State of New York; 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 opening of the 1964 World's Fair held in Flushing Meadows Park; and

WHEREAS, To celebrate this joyous milestone, the World's Fair Anniversary Committee and the New York City Parks Department will be hosting the World's Fair Anniversary Festival on Sunday, May 18, 2014; the event will feature World's Fair memorabilia; tours of Fair buildings, sculptures and structures; and international food, music and dance, capped with a live concert and fireworks; and

WHEREAS, On April 22, 1964, the 1964 World's Fair opened, and the eyes of the world were on Queens, New York, and what is now Flushing Meadows Corona Park; it was the start of an exciting two-year run that introduced Americans to the Space Age, brought the cultures of the globe to Queens, and presented the world visions of a future brimming with possibilities; and

WHEREAS, The 1964 World's Fair contained more than 150 international and corporate pavilions, including the New York State Pavilion, which consisted of the Tent of Tomorrow, three Observation Towers, the tallest of which perched 226 feet above the fairground, and the Theaterama,

which is now the Queens Theatre; and

WHEREAS, The Tent of Tomorrow was an open exhibition space, highlighting New York State attractions and hosting performances; the Tent's floor was designed as the world's largest map, depicting the entire State of New York in terrazzo paving with 567 panels, each weighing 400 pounds; and

WHEREAS, Fifty years later, New York State Pavilion, one of the most iconic remnants of the 1964 World's Fair, has been named as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation "National Treasures"; the National Treasures program recognizes historically, culturally and architecturally important sites to raise awareness and funding for their preservation, and the Pavilion is one of only 44 sites in the country to bear this designation; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, conservationists from the University of Pennsylvania, working with the NYC Parks, began a multi-year effort to preserve the map and restore some of its panels; today, an all-out effort to restore and preserve the New York State Pavilion is underway, with several organizations, including the New York State Pavilion Paint Project, People for the Pavilion, the Queens Historical Society, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, as well as the New York City Department of Parks, inspiring citywide conversations about its future; and

WHEREAS, The 1964 World's Fair has left an indelible imprint on the landscape and history of New York; the New York State Pavilion, as well as the Unisphere, a 12-story high, spherical stainless steel representation of the Earth that has become the borough of Queens' most recognizable symbol, have made Flushing Meadows Corona Park an important cultural destination; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the 1964 World's Fair rich legacy and enduring contribution to the heritage of the State of New York, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to join in the celebration so that present and future generations may come to appreciate the unique signif-

icance which its history plays in the progression of our State and Nation's evolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the 1964 World's Fair in Queens' Flushing Meadows Corona Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the World's Fair Anniversary Committee.