

2013-K1215

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Union Station in Utica, New York, to be celebrated on May 31, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to call attention to those historic sites within the State of New York which serve as lasting reminders of our rich and unique past; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the magnificent Union Station, to be celebrated at a "Steam Engine Dance" Gala Ball at Union Station in Utica, New York, on Saturday, May 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, On May 24, 1914, the historic Utica station opened in downtown Utica on the flats south of the Mohawk River, beginning its service as a stop on the New York Central Railroad; and

WHEREAS, The newly built facility became a Union station in 1915, when the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad and the New York, Ontario & Western Railroad moved their services to its riverside terminal; and

WHEREAS, Union Station was constructed in the classically-inspired Beaux Arts style by architects Allen H. Stem and Alfred Fellheimer of New York City, who brought to the project experience from building such other notable stations as New York City's Grand Central Terminal; and

WHEREAS, Union Station's beautiful architecture and spacious facilities served the people of Utica well during the city's rise as an industrial and commercial center; three stories high, with a 35 foot tall barrel-vaulted ceiling, 28 bays, and large clock over its entrance, the building was a fitting centerpiece of life in its community; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, the historic Utica landmark was very nearly lost due to neglect and urban renewal, until being rescued by the determined efforts of the fledgling Landmarks Society of Greater Utica; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1974, as a not-for-profit historic preserva-

tion and educational all-volunteer organization, the Landmarks Society has been the leading voice for historic preservation in the Greater Utica area for the past forty years; the preservation of Union Station was the Society's first major conservation effort and one of the largest, most important historic preservation acts in its forty-year history; and

WHEREAS, Today, Union Station is known as The Boehlert Center at Union Station, and is owned and lovingly cared for by the County of Oneida; and

WHEREAS, One of only a handful of stations in New York State that has remained an active train station throughout its lifespan, The Boehlert Center at Union Station serves as a multi-modal transportation center and is a true "union station" used by both Amtrak and the Adirondack Scenic Railroad; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Utica's Union Station, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the magnificent Union Station in Utica, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Boehlert Center at Union Station.