

2013-J5269

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Temple Beth El, of Niagara Falls, New York, to be celebrated on June 4, 2014

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 150th Anniversary of Temple Beth El, of Niagara Falls, New York, to be celebrated on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, with a special Kiddush Luncheon; and

WHEREAS, The Temple Beth El Synagogue is the oldest continuously-used Jewish house of worship in Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Formed 150 years ago, the congregation moved into the building that houses it to this day on October 11, 1914; and

WHEREAS, At its peak, the multigenerational congregation had an active religious school, and celebrated many life cycle events, including Consecrations, Bnai Mitzvot, Confirmations, weddings and funerals; and

WHEREAS, The vibrant community of Temple Beth El still holds regular services and holiday celebrations; although it is too small to support a full-time rabbi, various members of the congregation lead the services; there is an active Sisterhood, and the group also gathers for movie nights, dinners, and other social functions; and

WHEREAS, Connected to the larger community, Temple Beth El also sponsors joint functions with churches, participates in many local organizations, and hosts various fairs and bazaars; and

WHEREAS, Temple Beth El 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 150th Anniversary of Temple Beth El, Niagara Falls, 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 Temple Beth El, Niagara Falls, New York.