

2013-J5770

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of K.M. Davies Company in New York State

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those businesses within the State of New York which distinguish themselves through outstanding professional behavior, corporate innovation, and enduring commitment to the community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of K.M. Davies Company in New York State on Wednesday, January 29, 2014; and

WHEREAS, K.M. Davies Company began as a fruit and vegetable canning operation in 1895 at its present site on Lake Avenue in Williamson, New York; during this time, Kerrison M. Davies served as sole proprietor utilizing locally grown produce, and incorporation papers were filed with the New York Department of State on January 29, 1914; and

WHEREAS, Customary for the times, canning companies constructed cold storage facilities in order to preserve perishable fruits and vegetables until the time for processing; Mr. Davies became involved in storage construction and operation at K.M. Davies Company as well as at the Williamson Storage & Ice Company in 1909; the facility is still in operation today as the Williamson Storage Co.; and

WHEREAS, Fire destroyed the physical plant in March of 1916, and the two story building, as it stands today, was built over a two year period with a capacity of 70,000 barrels; processing and canning continued utilizing berries, spinach, tomatoes, peas, beets, apples and cherries; and

WHEREAS, Fresh produce shipped from Williamson in the early 1900s was primarily by railroad; cars were cooled with ice cut from nearby ponds

in the winter; in 1922 K.M. Davies Company installed mechanical ice making equipment, and ice production continued into the 1990s with production reaching over 2,000 tons annually; and

WHEREAS, In 1922, the company expanded cold storage capacity by constructing a 300 feet by 150 feet at grade, single story, clay tile building; the new space was used for peaches, apples, potatoes, carrots, lettuce and celery, and the building is still in use as a cold storage today; and

WHEREAS, A produce wash house was constructed in 1933, for repackers of lettuce and celery; during this time power consumption was changing from steam, generated onsite, to electricity made offsite using steam driven generators; in 1941, diesel engines were installed at the plant to power ammonia compressors due to the high electricity charges; and

WHEREAS, The early 1930s brought hard times, and canning operations subsequently ceased; the company reorganized in 1933, with a new Board of Directors and the State Bank of Williamson; debts were retired while the business thrived and prospered focusing solely on cold storage, logistics and brokerage activities; and

WHEREAS; During the 1950s and 1960s, long term Controlled Atmosphere Storage for apples, pears and onions was being researched and developed in collaboration with Cornell University; commercial CA rooms were first built at K.M. Davies Company in the early 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, continuing research with Universities and the private sector along with expanding domestic and world market demand for fresh produce and food, kept the company and all of its employees on the leading edge of storage, service and logistics innovation; and

WHEREAS, Today, remaining true to its motto of keeping your products fresh, naturally, K.M. Davies has over 8 million cubic feet of refriger-

ated space, the majority used as air tight Controlled Atmosphere rooms; it also has 350,000 cubic feet which is sharp freeze and subzero Fahrenheit capable along with dry storage rooms; and

WHEREAS, K.M. Davies Company employees handle more than 300 million pounds of food and ingredient commodities annually for growers, processors, fresh packers, shippers, wholesalers and retailers; products arrive by truck, rail car and intermodal or piggy back container; its customers are from the United States, Canada and around the world; and

WHEREAS, The Company's physical plant is continually maintained and upgraded using the latest technology and engineering controls to insure the safety of personnel, products in storage, its neighbors and the environment; and

WHEREAS, K.M. Davies Company is ably led by President James H. Verbridge, Vice President Robert A. Verbridge, Secretary/Treasurer Emily K. Verbridge, and Trustees James M. Verbridge, Lloyd C. Verbridge, Douglas Mason, and Christopher Brower; and

WHEREAS, K.M. Davies Company stands ready to serve the storage, logistics and brokerage needs of its customers throughout New York State, the Nation and the World; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges the K.M. Davies Company's success, recognizes its contributions to the local and State economies, and extends its highest commendation to the corporation and its employees, fully confident that, in its future, it will enjoy the same success which has so characterized its past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of K.M. Davies Company in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to K.M. Davies Company, Williamson, New York.