

## 2013-J5835

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal on August 15, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize events of historical significance which have had a profound effect on the development of our great Empire State and our world as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal on Monday, August 15, 2014; and

WHEREAS, One of the most important waterways in the world, the Panama Canal is a 48 mile-long international waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; this vital trading link saves ships passing through the long journey around the southern tip of South America, a distance of 8000 miles; and

WHEREAS, Originally a French project begun in the 1880s, the Panama Canal was successfully constructed in the period from 1904 to 1914; it held its official grand opening on August 15, 1914; and

WHEREAS, Many New Yorkers played a vital role in the canal's construction: William Cromwell, a Brooklyn attorney, worked to convince Congress to accept the project; Manhattan born President Theodore Roosevelt convinced Congress to choose Panama as the best route; and George Washington Goethals, an engineer from Brooklyn, played a pivotal roll supervising the canal's construction; and

WHEREAS, The Panama Canal is now more important than ever, serving as a vital trading route in the current era of globalization; its new expansion project will allow ships double the present maximum size to pass through the canal, dramatically increasing the amount of goods that can be transported; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, that when events of such historical importance are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal on Monday, August 15, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Panamanian Retirees Breakfast Club.