

2013-J5839

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter or "Safe Haven", in Oswego, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; these institutions give positive definition to the profile and disposition of the communities of the State of New York and profoundly strengthen our society with their commitment; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York; and

WHEREAS, Also known as "Safe Haven", the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter was established in Oswego, New York in August of 1944, by order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was the first and only refugee center established in the United States during World War II; and

WHEREAS, 982 refugees from war torn Europe were placed in an internment camp at Fort Ontario to await the outcome of the Second World War; the majority of these refugees were Jewish and recently liberated from the persecutions of Nazism in central Europe; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1946, the Refugee Center was opened and the refugees freed; and

WHEREAS, The Refugee Center is now a museum and education center dedicated to keeping alive the stories of the 982 refugees housed at the Fort Ontario Refugee Shelter from August 1944 until January 1946; and

WHEREAS, The Fort Ontario Refugee Shelter will commemorate its 70th Anniversary from June 19-21, 2014, with a Jewish Motorcycle Alliance "Ride to Remember" to support and promote Holocaust education and aware-

ness, as well as with many other activities to highlight this unique museum; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body that when an organization of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Fort Ontario Refugee Shelter.