

2013-J5984

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Locust Grove becoming a national landmark, historic estate, museum and nature preserve

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent is to promote environmental conservation and protection as well as to encourage the appreciation and understanding of the environment 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 commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Locust Grove becoming a national landmark, historic estate, museum and nature preserve; and

WHEREAS, Locust Grove's stately trees, rolling hills, and vistas from a bluff high above the Hudson River all combine to create a grand landscape garden that preserves much of the sense of place established by Samuel Morse more than 150 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Morse was strongly influenced by romantic 19th-century landscape garden design; at Locust Grove he found natural features that he used to frame views, create vistas, and provide comfortable settings in which to relax and enjoy the beauty of the landscape; and

WHEREAS, William and Martha Young brought a new vision to Locust Grove after acquiring the estate from Morse's heirs in 1895; they began to purchase adjoining land and added flower gardens by the mansion and scenic carriage drives along the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, near the house, Martha Young expanded the formal gardens and today the Perennial Garden preserves her unique style and plant collection; and

WHEREAS, A kitchen garden provided fresh produce for the residents of

the Locust Grove estate for over two centuries; today, the Heritage Vegetable Garden occupies the location of the old kitchen garden and provides a place for visitors to learn about the wide variety of vegetables and fruits grown on the estate; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Annette Innis Young, the last member of the Young family to live at Locust Grove, created a not-for-profit foundation to preserve the estate for the enjoyment, visitation, and enlightenment of the public; her bequest included more than 125 acres of gardens and grounds; and

WHEREAS, Since that time the museum trustees have continued to expand the estate's open space by acquiring much of the adjoining Southwood and Edgehill estates, and today Locust Grove's gardens and grounds cover nearly 200 acres; and

WHEREAS, Locust Grove's historic buildings, modern exhibit galleries, elegant gardens, miles of hiking trails, and exciting public programs are available to visitors year-round; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Locust Grove, for its unwavering commitment to the citizens of New York State, as it provides an uncompromising standard of excellence in the delivery of superlative community service; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of organizations such as Locust Grove, which has worked tirelessly on behalf of protecting our natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations of New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Locust Grove becoming a national landmark, historic estate, museum and nature preserve; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie, New York.