2013-K1399

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the observance of the 1st Annual Nikola Tesla Day in the State of New York on July 10, 2014

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body believes that creating a day to honor Nikola Tesla will ensure that the State of New York and its residents commemorate and acknowledge the endeavors, efforts and successes which enhance the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the observance of the 1st Annual Nikola Tesla Day in the State of New York on July 10, 2014; and

WHEREAS, To give back to the State of New York, Nikola Tesla built the Wardenclyffe laboratory and its famous transmitting tower in Shoreham, Long Island; this huge landmark was 187 feet high, capped by a 68-foot copper dome and was planned to be the first broadcast system, transmitting both signals and power without wires to any point on the globe; and

WHEREAS, Posthumously recognized for his tremendous efforts in the name of science and peace, Nikola Tesla was a true genius, a visionary inventor and a gifted mechanical and electrical engineer; he was one of the most important contributors to the birth of commercial electricity and is best known for his many revolutionary advances in the field of electromagnetism in the late 19th and 20th Centuries; and

WHEREAS, Nikola Tesla's patents and theoretical work formed the basis of modern alternating current (AC) electric power systems, including the polyphase system of electrical distribution, with which he helped usher in a second Industrial Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Nikola Tesla was born on July 10, 1856, an ethnic Serb, in the village of Smiljan, in modern day Croatia, then a part of the Austrian Empire; his father, Milutin Tesla was a Serbian Orthodox Priest and

his mother, Djuka Mandic, was an inventor in her own right of household appliances; and

WHEREAS, Nikola Tesla studied at the Polytechnic Institute in Graz, Austria, and the University of Prague; at first, he intended to specialize in physics and mathematics, but soon became fascinated with the science of electricity; this fascination would take him on an extraordinary journey of discovery that would change the world; and

WHEREAS, In February 1882, this remarkable man of science discovered the rotating magnetic field, a fundamental principle in physics and the basis of nearly all devices used around the world today; and

WHEREAS, He privately built a prototype of his new induction motor and ran it successfully; electricity today is generated, transmitted and converted to mechanical power by means of his invention, which now lights the entire globe; and

WHEREAS, Unable to find interest in Europe in promoting this radical device, Nikola Tesla accepted an offer to work for Thomas Edison in New York; upon arriving in the United States in 1884, he carried an introduction letter from Charles Batchelor to Thomas Edison that said: "I know two great men, one is you and the other is this young man"; he would spend the next 59 years of his productive life living in New York; and

WHEREAS, Nikola Tesla set about improving Edison's line of Direct Current (DC) dynamos while working at his famous lab in Menlo Park, New Jersey; he developed the highly efficient polyphase Alternating Current (AC) system of generators, motors and transformers, and would secure 40 U.S. patents relating to its processes; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Edison did not want to lose his DC empire, and a bitterly public War of the Currents ensued; after a difficult and

exhausting battle, Nikola Tesla with the support of George Westinghouse, ultimately prevailed, and AC proved to be the superior technology; and

WHEREAS, In 1893, Nikola Tesla's brilliance astonished the world

through his demonstration of the wonders of alternating current electricity at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago; two years later, Nikola Tesla designed the first hydroelectric power plant in Niagara Falls, which was the final victory of AC transmission and would make it the standard power system from that time until the present day; and

WHEREAS, Though forced to shut down because of wartime security concerns; it still exists with its 100 feet deep foundation intact; today, Nikola Tesla's laboratory remains in good condition and is graced with a bicentennial plaque; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer in many fields, Nikola Tesla continued to make groundbreaking advances for the betterment of mankind; among his many eminent inventions and discoveries include the fluorescent light, laser beam, wireless communications, the remote control, robotics, the Tesla coil, Tesla's turbine, and a design for a vertical takeoff aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Nikola Tesla became the father of modern electrical transmission and his many inventions, including radio, will never be forgotten; in his lifetime he registered over 700 patents worldwide, and his visions of the future included satellites, interplanetary communication, and exploration of solar energy; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional genius died in the Hotel New Yorker on January 7, 1943; a state funeral was held at St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York City; telegrams of condolence were received from many notables, including the First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Vice President Henry Wallace; and

WHEREAS, Nikola Tesla has received many posthumous honors including a commemorative stamp by the United States Postal Service, and a large photo of himself featured in the Statue of Liberty Museum; the Nikola Tesla Corner Sign, located at the intersection of 40th Street and 6th Avenue in Manhattan, is a constant reminder to all New Yorkers of this brilliant scientist and inventor; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who so drastically enhanced the well-being and vitality of their world and have

shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the observance of the 1st Annual Nikola Tesla Day in the

State of New York on July 10, 2014.