

2013-J6129

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ed Sayles upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service as Producing Director at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ed Sayles upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service as Producing Director at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ed Sayles has been Producing Director of the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse since September 1981; he also currently serves as producing director for the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival; and

WHEREAS, Under Ed Sayles' leadership, the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse has experienced tremendous growth; annual attendance during its musical theatre season has grown from 9,000 to 50,000, and the number of students attending the Playhouse's youth theater program has grown from 10,000 to more than 125,000; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Ed Sayles has overseen two major renovations at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, resulting in a Broadway-size 501-seat space, a full fly-system and orchestra pit, larger wing space, an expanded box office, new heating and cooling systems, state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems and the nickname, "Broadway in the Finger Lakes"; and

WHEREAS, Ed Sayles initiated and spearheaded the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival, which celebrated its inauguration in the summer of

2012; a major contribution to the cultural life of Auburn, the Festival consists of mainstage productions at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse; "Off-Broadway"-style shows, and new musical works-in-progress presented through a series called The Pitch, which will be the subject of an upcoming documentary; and

WHEREAS, This tireless artist and leader also directs on a regular basis; he has directed more than 125 plays during his tenure at Merry-Go-Round Playhouse and, in retirement, will become the organization's Producing Director Emeritus, allowing him to continue directing shows; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his craft and profession, Ed Sayles has served two terms on the Theatre Panel of the New York State Council on the Arts, and has also been a member of the board of directors of the Cayuga Museum, the Cayuga County United Way, and the Cayuga County Office of Tourism; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Ed Sayles has served Merry-Go-Round Playhouse with intelligence, vision, and caring dedication, earning the respect, admiration and affection of his colleagues, peers, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife and three children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ed Sayles and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ed Sayles.