

2015-J519

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Oriskany to be celebrated December 14, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Oriskany, in Oneida County, New York, to be celebrated with a ceremony Sunday, December 14, 2014, at the Oriskany Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Officially incorporated in December of 1902, Oriskany, initially known as Oriska, was founded in the early 1800s; and

WHEREAS, Situated on the rich alluvial plain of the Mohawk Valley, the Village of Oriskany's earliest traces of settlement was a large village of Oneida Indians, a tribe of the Iroquois nation, who named the area Oriska, the place or stream of nettles; and

WHEREAS, Before the Revolutionary War, much of what is the present village of Oriskany was owned by the Fauconnier Family, and then passed to the DeLancys; and

WHEREAS, In 1785, Gerrit G. Lansing came to survey the Oriskany Patent; recognizing its beauty, fertility, and potential, he returned in 1802 and purchased 400 acres of the Oriskany Patent; and

WHEREAS, The first settler was Ephraim Webster, who came in 1784 as an agent, to handle relations with the Oneidas and to establish a trading post; and

WHEREAS, In February of 1811, the Oriskany Manufacturing Company was incorporated which manufactured 200,000 pounds of wool, creating 120 jobs for the area; and

WHEREAS, On July 4, 1817, the Erie Canal was begun in the City of Rome, New York, and in October of 1819, the channel of the Erie between Rome and Utica was filled with water from the Oriskany Creek; and

WHEREAS, In 1825, the Erie Canal was officially opened from Albany to Buffalo, New York; for Oriskany, it was the beginning of growth and development as the village catered to the demands of the canal travelers, and from the canawlers, as well as families of the men who maintained the canal; and

WHEREAS, Six years after the canal opened, Oriskany factories employed more workers, had a larger capital, and used more wool than any other woolen mill in New York State; and

WHEREAS, In this early period, several important developments occurred including, the first school was built in 1810; the first post office, 1820; in 1830, St. Peter's Episcopal Church was founded and a brick school was constructed; in 1835, the Presbyterian Church was built; and during the next decade, a Welsh Methodist Church was founded; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, in 1839, the Utica Syracuse railroad was built; and in 1854, a four room frame school was erected and used until 1892 when the larger brick Union school was built; and

WHEREAS, From 1856 to 1857, the Oriskany Manufacturing Company's mill site was purchased and established into a furnace, which became known as the Buell and Merriman Malleable Iron Company; and

WHEREAS, In October of 1879, the Buell and Merriman Malleable Iron Company moved to Rome, New York, and a new company, The Oriskany Malleable Iron Company, Limited, began processing iron products in January of 1880; and

WHEREAS, In 1886, the Oriskany Malleable Iron Company, Limited moved its operation to the site of a the Mohawk Valley Cider Mill and built

their iron works foundation; one year later, the two companies doubled their size and became a major employer and main-stay for the Village of Oriskany; and

WHEREAS, Other important industries which could be found in Oriskany in the late 1880s included the raising of hops, the shipping of thousands of bushels of potatoes, a steam operated grist mill, a broom factory, and the Oriskany Knitting Company; and

WHEREAS, After several serious fires, the citizens of the Village of Oriskany saw the need to organize the Oriskany Independent Fire and Hose Company, and in 1903, a fire house was constructed; and

WHEREAS, In 1914, the Village of Oriskany was incorporated with Edwin H. Salisbury elected the first president in January of 1915; and

WHEREAS, In 1931, the Oriskany School became centralized, and one year later a new school was built; today, with several additions, it serves as the junior-senior high school; and

WHEREAS, In 1933, Route 69, a state highway from Rome to Utica was created as the bed and tow-path of the Erie Canal through the Oriskany Village; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1800's, William Green had a beautiful home which later was acquired by Charles Waterbury; in 1946, this landmark became the property of Henry Trinkaus, who with his five sons, turned it into a beautiful restaurant to become one of the finest dining places in Central New York; over the years, its Christmas display of lights and decorations has been seen by many people from all over the State; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the able leadership of Mayor Donald F. Rothdierer, the Village of Oriskany continues its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens, ensuring a positive business, institutional and educational climate, and providing all essential services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Oriskany to be celebrated December 14, 2014, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Mayor Donald F. Rothdiener, Village of Oriskany.