

2015-J615

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the 1815 signing of legislation establishing the Town of Athens and designating its boundaries on February 25, 2015

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its longstanding tradition, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the 1815 signing of legislation establishing the Town of Athens and designating its boundaries to be celebrated with a reception at the Athens Firehouse, Athens, New York, on Saturday, February 28, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The area, now known as Athens, New York, was initially purchased by three men from the Makicanni Indians in 1665; it was sold numerous times throughout its history, eventually becoming Loonenburg in 1685, and then Esperanza in 1794; and

WHEREAS, Finally, in 1800, the Town was given its final name of Athens; on February 25, 1815, legislation was signed creating the Town of Athens, which also encompassed the Village of Athens; and

WHEREAS, In 1703, the faithful residents of then Loonenburg, established the longest, continuously serving Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, In the early years of the vibrant Village of Athens, tanneries, brickyards, and shipyards, as well as the Athens Pottery were a vital part of the economic base; concurrently, stone quarries, which shipped cobbles to New York City, were established in the Town of Athens; and

WHEREAS, In addition, both a gold mine and a diamond mine were located in the Town of Athens, and the lumber industry and tanneries both pros-

pered; working farms and plentiful orchards were also prevalent throughout the countryside; and

WHEREAS, Tourism also flourished in the 1800s; resorts were built catering to individuals and families who enjoyed the beautiful scenery and the fresh air; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, future soldiers of the American Revolution trained on drill grounds in the Town of Athens, many of whom went on to fight for America's freedom; and

WHEREAS, Today, the small, friendly community is made up of an eclectic group of artisans, businesspeople, and families who all enjoy the beauty of this historic area and the essence of village life; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and commemorate milestones in the history of communities, both large and small, in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the 1815 signing of legislation establishing the Town of Athens and designating its boundaries on February 25, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Bicentennial Committee, Town of Athens.