

2015-K555

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Cayuga-Owasco Lakes Historical Society of Moravia upon the occasion of hosting the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the replica President Millard Fillmore birthplace cabin

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 honor the Cayuga-Owasco Lakes Historical Society of Moravia upon the occasion of hosting the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the replica President Millard Fillmore birthplace cabin, located at the Fillmore Glen State Park; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Fillmore Glen State Park will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year under state ownership; this scenic State park is a vital element of the tourist component of our local economy; and

WHEREAS, The Fillmore cabin, which was built and furnished by community volunteers using donated materials, is a popular attraction that helps visitors understand the early life of the only United States President born in Central New York; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Scarry, a native of Waterford, New York, saw an opportunity to delve deeper into the life of President Millard Fillmore when he and his young family first came to visit the Fillmore birthplace site in 1956, only to find a rusting New York State marker in a cornfield; and

WHEREAS, The idea of a replica of Fillmore's birthplace cabin goes back to at least 1930, about the time Marcus D. French located the

original site in Summerhill for members of the Cayuga County Historical Society; although the land had been deeded to the historical society in 1922, no development took place there other than the State Education Department marker placed in 1932; and

WHEREAS, In the spring of 1960, Robert J. Scarry met with the Director of the Cayuga County Museum to discuss the idea of building a cabin on the birthplace site, and the idea took off; the project was given backing by the Chamber of Commerce and a Fillmore Memorial Committee was formed; and

WHEREAS, During 1962 and 1963, the floor plan was developed and approval was granted by the State Park to locate the cabin there; in response to an appeal for logs, John H. Rouse offered to donate a log cabin located in the town of Moravia on Town Line Road; and

WHEREAS, The well-preserved cabin, which dated back to the early 1800s, had been covered with planking and used as a storage shed on the Rouse Farm; the cabin was carefully deconstructed during the remainder of 1963 and a foundation was put in place at the Fillmore Glen State Park in November; and

WHEREAS, The central stone fireplace and main structure of the cabin were built during 1964 with work concluding for the year in late November; during the following spring the shake roof was completed, flooring, windows and hardware installed and antique furnishings began to be collected; and

WHEREAS, The entire project was done by volunteers with donated materials; many local residents, teachers and students worked on weekends and holidays to help complete the cabin; and

WHEREAS, The cabin dedication took place on Sunday, May 23, 1965, during which time businesses and houses throughout the village were all

decorated with flags and bunting; in addition, a brunch for 250 people was served in the high school cafeteria, followed by the main event at the Fillmore Glen State Park; and

WHEREAS, This historical cabin was only the beginning of many efforts to commemorate former President Millard Fillmore over the course of many years; the Millard Fillmore Memorial Association officially disbanded on December 31, 1965, and a new organization, the Cayuga-Owasco Lakes Historical Society, was formed; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction and guidance of Robert J. Scarry and many others, the birthplace site was developed and continues to thrive today; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the replica President Millard Fillmore birthplace cabin, and for all the individuals who worked to bring proper attention to a place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Cayuga-Owasco Lakes Historical Society of Moravia upon the occasion of hosting the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the replica President Millard Fillmore birthplace cabin; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Cayuga-Owasco Lakes Historical Society of Moravia.