

## 2015-J2613

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the rekindling of Operation Democracy, spreading the concepts of freedom, peace and democracy through friendship and education

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate significant events which represent turning points in our unique history and which are indelibly etched in the saga of our great Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the rekindling of Operation Democracy, spreading the concepts of freedom, peace and democracy through friendship and education; and

WHEREAS, Operation Democracy seeks to carry on the legacy from the original Operation Democracy from a humanitarian, non-partisan perspective through culture, education, children and the community of the hamlet of Locust Valley and the surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, The original Operation Democracy was conceived in Locust Valley, New York in 1947, as a grass roots effort to supplement the Marshall Plan; and

WHEREAS, Underlying this movement, Operation Democracy was an exciting enterprise, containing all the best elements of human impulse; it was a spontaneous gesture in response to humanitarian need, as well as a hands on project, a citizen's grass roots effort from a non-governmental, non-political perspective; and

WHEREAS, During this time, the citizens of Locust Valley packed and sent clothes, shoes, books, toys, medical supplies, money, and a myriad of affection in the form of letters to Sainte Mere Eglise, France, the first town liberated during the invasion of Normandy; a life-long connection had been forged, not by confrontation, but by reaching out to help, and receiving the treasure of gratitude in return; and

WHEREAS, Today, Operation Democracy remains tirelessly dedicated to carrying on this legacy with the reinstatement of its historic concept, the belief that peace cannot be achieved by governments alone but must start in the hearts of people themselves; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, this vital organization will continue to act as an educational, cultural and community events exchange, working with local schools to educate its students on the importance of humanitarianism; and

WHEREAS, Resurrecting Operation Democracy is a way of reestablishing, refueling and propelling once again the strength of the American character, and the courage of the American heart; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the rekindling of Operation Democracy, spreading the concepts of freedom, peace and democracy through friendship and education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kaye Weninger, President of Operation Democracy.