

## 2015-J3220

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Town Hall Theater on September 24, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those cultural institutions whose commitment to promoting the richness and diversity of the arts and entertainment world has contributed to the strength, vitality, and cultural enrichment of their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Town Hall Theater on Thursday, September 24, 2015, in Lowville, New York; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated with a Red Carpet event culminating with a showing of the theater's first ever movie, "Home Alone"; and

WHEREAS, With a long and distinguished tradition of service to the Lowville community, the Town Hall Theater was originally constructed over a century ago as a combination theater and office building; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Town Hall Theater served as an Opera House, a USO Club and a Silent Movie House before becoming the Village of Lowville's main theater in 1948; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, this remarkable historic landmark was purchased by motion picture pioneer Earnest J. Wolfe, who hired the well-known architect, Michael J. De Angelis, to conduct an extensive remodeling; the grand re-opening later that year was a success, and the cinema was heralded as the most outstanding and beautiful theater in Northern New York; and

WHEREAS, Nick and Rena Giannocous purchased the Town Hall Theater from the Wolfe family in 1957, and continued to operate at the movie house for 33 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, the Giannocous family sold the Town Hall Theater to Patrick and Patricia O'Brien, who, together with their daughters, Rachel and Katherine, have skillfully provided an outstanding cinematic experience for the Lowville community for the past 25 years; and  
WHEREAS, Today, the Town Hall Theater features a spacious viewing area with 687 seats and a 17 by 34 foot movie screen; in addition, fluorescent-lighted murals and sculptures created by Belgian artist Oscar Gias during the 1940s depict historic scenes from the region's rich history; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of the fabric of its community, the Town Hall Theater uses a state-of-the-art digital projector, and often screens movies made by local filmmakers in its efforts to serve as a unique resource for Lowville residents and the surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, The arts are the building blocks of civilization; they are central to human expression; they enlighten us and inspire the imagination; educational institutions, individuals, and organizations which further such worthy purposes richly merit the recognition and appreciation of this Legislative Body and the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, As the Town Hall Theater looks back with great pride at its beginnings, it renews both its dedication to supporting artistic excellence, and its commitment to the community it has served, expressing its appreciation to all those who have helped to sustain and enhance it over the years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Town Hall Theater on September 24, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the O'Brien family.