

2015-J3782

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the John R. Oishei Foundation

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize those illustrious organizations whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in 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 75th Anniversary of the John R. Oishei Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In 1940, John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation in Buffalo, New York, established the John R. Oishei Foundation, formerly known as the Julia R. and Estelle L. Foundation, which was funded with both annual contributions and charitable remainder trusts; and

WHEREAS, John R. Oishei's appreciation of Buffalo, New York, and its citizens, particularly those who became employees of Trico, was the basis of his strong desire that the work of the John R. Oishei Foundation be directed to Buffalo-connected activities which improve the lives of its residents; and

WHEREAS, While John R. Oishei served as President from its inception until his death in 1968, the John R. Oishei Foundation concentrated its support on hospitals and schools in the Buffalo area with the balance being directed to cultural and social services needs; and

WHEREAS, Until 1997, all John R. Oishei Foundation contributions were made on an anonymous basis which John R. Oishei believed allowed him to make his philanthropic decisions with greater objectivity; and

WHEREAS, Between 1997 and early 2007, Thomas Baker, the John R. Oishei Foundation's first paid Executive Director, steered a transformation which led to this vital organization becoming a catalyst for change to

enhance the economic vitality and quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region through grant making, leadership and network building; and

WHEREAS, Annually, the John R. Oishei Foundation's resources help to benefit educational programs, healthcare, capital projects, neighborhood stabilization, nonprofit executive development, arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, The John R. Oishei Foundation has supported the largest health and education projects in Western New York, including Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute and the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, the John R. Oishei Foundation continued to honor the legacy of John R. Oishei by announcing a historic grant to fund the new John R. Oishei Children's Hospital of Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, The John R. Oishei Foundation is now the largest private foundation based in Western New York, the third largest in the Upstate region and 42nd largest statewide; and

WHEREAS, In addition to grant making, the John R. Oishei Foundation continues to innovate by helping local nonprofits with capacity building, analysis, strategic and business planning and leadership training, convening community members, fostering collaborations and promoting network building; and

WHEREAS, The John R. Oishei Foundation's current Chief Executive Officer, Robert Gioia, who took over as CEO in 2007, has played a significant leadership role in Western New York as Chairman of the Boards at the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo and the Martin House Restoration Corp. as well as Chairman of Great Lakes Health and the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of

the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the John R. Oishei Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert Gioia, CEO, the John R. Oishei Foundation.