

2015-J4057

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 225th Anniversary of the Albany Institute of History & Art on February 26, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate those events of historical significance which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the Albany Institute of History & Art to be celebrated at a press conference and a special cake cutting by President George Washington on Friday, February 26, 2016; and

WHEREAS, In addition, a 225th Members Birthday Party will be held on Friday, March 11, 2016, at the Institute to recognize and give thanks to its many loyal members and donors; and

WHEREAS, The Albany Institute of History & Art, located in Albany, New York, is the oldest museum in New York State, and the second oldest in the country; the renowned museum is older than both The Louvre and the Smithsonian Institute, and George Washington was President of this great Nation when the Museum first opened its doors in New York City's Federal Hall in 1791; and

WHEREAS, On February 26, 1791, the Institute was incorporated as the Society of the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts, and Manufacturing; supported by the New York state legislature, to which it served as an informational advisor, the society met to improve the state's economy through advances in agricultural methods and manufacturing technologies; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the condition that they meet where the New York State Legislature convened, the society moved to Albany, New York,

in 1797, when it became the state capital; and

WHEREAS, For 225 years, the Albany Institute of History & Art has been dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting interest in the history, art, and culture of Albany and the Upper Hudson Valley; the museum achieves this mission through its collections, exhibitions, education programs, library, research projects, publications, and other programs offered to the general public; and

WHEREAS, With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving the community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story and its own place in history; and

WHEREAS, Although the Albany Institute of History & Art is famous for its significant Hudson River school paintings, by artists such as Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the broad scope of its collections includes fine arts, furnishings, personal objects, documents, manuscripts, photographs, and personal papers used by people of all ages, social classes, economic conditions, and cultural groups; and

WHEREAS, Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place; each year, 25,000 visitors enjoy meeting the people who helped shape this region; and

WHEREAS, Art and history lovers have enjoyed long-term exhibitions including "Ancient Egypt," "Nineteenth-Century American Sculpture: Erastus Dow Palmer, Launt Thompson, Charles Calverley," and "Traders and Culture: Colonial Albany and the Formation of American Identity"; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Executive Director, Tammi Groft, the Albany Institute of History & Arts' Education programs serve 10,000 students, teachers, adult learners, and families every year; the staff of the education department strives to connect the community to

its collections and exhibitions through lifelong learning opportunities which serve toddlers to older adults; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, the education department has developed programs for

school children and their teachers which provide formal learning experiences which support their curricula; a full range of informal, public programs are also offered to the community to help people of all ages connect to arts and culture and to each other; every program offered has been tested and piloted before being fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, From 1998-2001, the Albany Institute of History & Art raised \$17 million to bring the museum galleries and facilities up to 21st century standards with a renovation and expansion project which created the museum which is visited by numerous history buffs and art enthusiasts today; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that New York State's invaluable cultural, educational, and recreational institutions should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the Albany Institute of History & Art on February 26, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tammi Groft, Executive Director, Albany Institute of History & Art.