

2015-J4212

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the Bicentennial of the City of Troy, New York, to be celebrated on April 12, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize events of significance which exemplify the history and development of the State of New York; each city, town, village and hamlet within the borders of our great Empire State proudly resonates with the rich and noble history; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate the anniversaries of the founding of municipalities throughout the State, noting in turn their contributions to the fabric and progression of 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 Bicentennial of the City of Troy, New York, to be celebrated on Tuesday, April 12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Founded by Dutch settlers in the mid-17th Century, Troy received its name in 1789 after a vote of the people; it was incorporated as a town in 1791, and became a village in 1796; and

WHEREAS, The City of Troy was officially chartered on April 12, 1816, and was, at the time, a small community with a steadily growing population of 5,000 people who were just beginning to focus on manufacturing endeavors; and

WHEREAS, During its early years, Troy was divided into six wards, each with an Alderman and an Assistant Alderman who were popularly elected; the Governor and Council of Appointment filled the positions of Mayor, Recorder and Marshall, all of whom were each appointed to one year terms; and

WHEREAS, This former Village of Troy President, Albert Pawling, served

as the city's first Mayor; known for his hospitality and earnestness, he long resided at the corner of River and Washington Streets; and WHEREAS, Following the War of 1812, Troy residents began to revive trade and commerce in their region by expanding transportation networks to the west; these efforts helped lead to the birth of the Erie Canal, a waterway which transported a variety of local products including pottery made from clay derived off the western banks of Mount Ida; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Troy became a focal point for wheat and cash crops grown in Rensselaer County, Western Vermont and Massachusetts, on their way to be shipped through the canals or on the Hudson River to New York City and beyond; and

WHEREAS, With a proud tradition of educational excellence, Troy was propelled to greatness through actions of such area luminaries as Emma Willard, Stephen Van Rensselaer and Amos Eaton, who founded the Troy Female Seminary and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute respectively; and

WHEREAS, At the time of the Civil War, Troy's population had grown to over 39,000 residents, many of whom were engaged in the manufacturing of a wide range of products including, bells, horseshoes, shirt collars and cuffs, as well as surveying instruments which were shipped and sold around the world; and

WHEREAS, After the catastrophic fire of 1862, the residents of Troy made a number of improvements in fire safety, and rebuilt their the city into a central hub for our Nation's growing network of railroad lines; its borders also grew with the annexation of the Village of Lansingburgh in 1900; and

WHEREAS, As Troy celebrated its Centennial in 1916, its citizens welcomed the opening of the Russell Sage College for Women and a new YWCA facility; Samaritan Hospital also opened to provide better health

care for local residents, and additional recreational amenities like Prospect Park and Frear Park were opened to the public; and

WHEREAS, During the post-World War II era , the City of Troy experi-

enced one of its most challenging periods with many important social and political issues coming to the forefront including the growth of the suburbs, the Civil Rights Movement and a new City Charter; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Troy, like many American cities, experimented with Urban Renewal and reconstructed much of its downtown area; since then, the historic preservation movement has had many successes in preserving the City's remarkable architecture and unique history; and
WHEREAS, Today, Troy is experiencing a renaissance in its downtown historic district, with many new companies, restaurants, and shops opening for business; there is also a resurgence of appreciation within the community for its distinguished past and bright vision for the future; and

WHEREAS, Remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the City of Troy continues its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens and ensuring a positive business, institutional and educational climate for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Bicentennial of the City of Troy, New York, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Patrick Madden, Mayor of the City of Troy, New York.