

## 2015-J4896

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Watson's Chocolates

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those businesses and individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is also the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those who work to better their local community and work hard to keep a local tradition alive; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Watson's Chocolates; and

WHEREAS, In 1946, two brothers, Louis and John Watson, and their respective wives, Ellen and Mary, began making chocolates in the back room of their soda fountain and luncheonette on Delaware Avenue in Kenmore, New York; and

WHEREAS, Using old-fashioned methods and recipes shared by their relatives, the Watsons quickly established a reputation for producing fine confections and began selling small amounts of chocolates in the front of their store; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, Jim Watson, son of Louis and Ellen, joined the family business, and in 1987, took over the chocolate part of the company, adding three new retail and production facilities; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Watson, Jim's daughter, was hired in 1993, making it possible for the business to expand; five additional stores were opened which greatly increased the Watson's Chocolates product line; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Watson family recipes are still made by hand, and

in small batches, including the famous sponge candy; the candy makers and chocolatiers are all part of the extended Watson family, and there is enormous pride in using only the highest quality ingredients in the creation of the products, including only Fair Trade Certified chocolate; and

WHEREAS, Watson's Chocolates uses only the freshest, costliest, and purest ingredients; no shortcuts are taken, no compromises are made and their single most important priority is guaranteeing their customer's satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, Recently, Watson's Chocolates has established a catalog and internet sales presence and partnered with Anderson's Ice Cream and Resurgence Brewery, assuring that the Watson's Chocolates brand will be represented worldwide and throughout the Buffalo, New York, area; and WHEREAS, As the Watson family celebrates their 70th Anniversary, they look to the future by introducing new products and continuing to service their loyal customers; in addition, they look forward to opening up additional markets as new customers grow to appreciate the same Watson chocolate products that Western New Yorkers have enjoyed for 70 years; and

WHEREAS, The success of Watson's Chocolates is possible because of the hard work and vision that started 70 years ago by the Watson brothers, and passed through the generations and on to the generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Watson's Chocolates continues to maintain the promise made 70 years ago to ensure that customers receive the same or better quality that has become their trademark since its humble beginnings in 1946; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a

long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Watson's Chocolates; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Watson Family.