

## 2015-J5184

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Sunshine Hall Free Library on June 30, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Sunshine Hall Free Library, to be recognized with a Centennial Celebration on Thursday, June 30, 2016, at the Carriage House, Barryville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Sunshine Hall Free Library was officially chartered by New York State 1916; much of the enthusiasm for this new venture came about as the result of the efforts of its first librarian, Walter B. Styles; and

WHEREAS, The Sunshine Hall Free Library grew to more than 1100 active members by 1919, an amazing fact considering that the population of the Town of Highland at the time was approximately 900; a survey completed that year ranked Highland number three in the entire State for reading fiction and non-fiction, which was quite an accomplishment for a rural community; and

WHEREAS, The decade of the 1920s was one of enormous change in the United States, and in Sullivan County; nationwide there were great population shifts, women were entering the workforce in larger numbers than ever before and the automobile was becoming accessible to the common person; and

WHEREAS, Although tucked in a corner of Sullivan County and isolated

from much of this transition, the Sunshine Hall Free Library was faced with change as well; the library had simply outgrown its accommodations in Sunshine Hall and the membership continued to grow, as did the institution's role in the community; and

WHEREAS, During this time, it went on record to pledge itself to assume responsibility for the erection of a new library building and the conversion of the old building into a community building; the new building was erected and the old building was remodeled; and

WHEREAS, The Sunshine Hall Free Library was developing from its modest beginning to a force for good; its sphere of activity was continually broadening and it developed a real live community spirit, serving Highland, Lumberland and Shohola Townships as well as many other villages and towns; and

WHEREAS, The people of these communities came together once again, and the result was a new, modern library building; above the brick and mortar of the structure itself was the notion that it had all sprung from very humble beginnings to become a major force for good in the community; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, from Memorial Day to the Fourth of July to the Christmas holidays, Sunshine Hall Free Library had truly become the center of community life; and

WHEREAS, More than any other, the name of Walter B. Styles became virtually synonymous with the library through much of its early life, as he gave freely of his time and energy to tirelessly promote and develop its usefulness as an education center; and

WHEREAS, Today, located in Eldred, New York, and under the able leadership of its Library Director Patricia Kennedy, the Sunshine Hall Free

Library has become every bit as much a part of the community as the community has been a part of it; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Sunshine Hall Free Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it

looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Sunshine Hall Free Library; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Sunshine Hall Free Library.