

2015-J5323

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Remington Arms Company, Inc.

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 businesses which 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 200th Anniversary of Remington Arms Company, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Remington celebrates its 200th Anniversary in the gun business as "America's Oldest Gunmaker;" the company is the oldest manufacturer in America still making its original product; and

WHEREAS, For 200 years, Remington Arms has been the business backbone of Ilion, New York, in Herkimer County; today, the company is one of the county's largest employers, employing nearly 1,400 people and greatly enhancing its economic impact; and

WHEREAS, In 1816, Eliphalet Remington II handcrafted his first rifle barrel at his father's forge, and carried it to Utica, New York, to have a local gunsmith craft it into a flintlock rifle; he soon established a rifle-making business and forged thousands of rifles which he sold to gunsmiths throughout America; and

WHEREAS, After Eliphalet Remington II moved the barrel making operation from the forge site to 200 acres alongside the new Erie Canal, the present location of the Remington factory in Ilion, New York, he negoti-

ated his first firearms contracts for the United States Army Ordnance Department to manufacture the first complete guns made by the company; and

WHEREAS, On April 12, 1861, the Civil War began, and Remington's Armory supplied pistols, carbines, rifles and muskets for the federal Army and Navy; the war officially ended in April of 1865, and Remington's vast armory began making a great variety of firearms for civilian hunters, for settlers moving west, and for the emerging target shooting sportsman; and

WHEREAS, During the next 50 years, Remington's expansion included producing metallic, centerfire ammunition, introducing its first high power, auto-loading rifle, producing the first American autoloading shotgun, introducing the company's first pump-action shotgun as well as manufacturing the world's first effective typewriter in Ilion, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1914, Remington constructed four new massive plants, one in Ilion, New York, to manufacture firearms and ammunition; three years later, when the United States declared war on Germany, Remington produced military rifles, pistols, signal guns and machine guns, as well as ammunition for the Allies; and

WHEREAS, Following the war and for nearly 20 years, Remington thrived, introducing the company's first autoloading pistol and the concept of "Game Load" shotshells which revolutionized the shotshell industry; in addition, the company entered the cutlery business after forming the Remington Cutlery Works, Inc., in Bridgeport, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, In 1940, with war already being waged in Europe and the Far East, the United States Army War Department ordered Remington to expand its ammunition production in Bridgeport, Connecticut, including the

formation of several Government Owned Company Operated (GOCO) ammunition plants; during World War II, Remington facilities produced more than half the small arms ammunition used by the Allies and manufactured

hundreds of thousands of military rifles and millions of weapons parts for other gun makers; and

WHEREAS, From the 1950s through 2014, Remington introduced several new and innovative shotguns and rifles, re-introduced its popular "Bullet Knife" series of pocket knives, revolutionized the autoloading shotgun market with the introduction of the VersaMax, re-entered the handgun market after 85 years, as well as constructing a modern ammunition plant in Lonoke, Arkansas, and opening a new state of the art manufacturing facility in Huntsville, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, For more than 200 years, Remington's firearms have been forged from the untamed spirit that will always define our nation; the proud tradition that began with Eliphalet Remington II's first hand-built rifle in 1816, continues to this day and Remington innovation has always been ahead of its time, as evidenced by its rich history and long line of legendary firearms; and

WHEREAS, Even through hard times, Remington Arms Company, Inc., continues its dedication to the community of Ilion, New York, and Herkimer County, as well as the other markets throughout the State of New York; 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 200th Anniversary of Remington Arms Company, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Remington Arms Company, Inc.