

## 2015-J5496

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of The Congregational Church of Manhasset United Church of Christ of Manhasset, New York, celebrated on April 10, 2016

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 75th Anniversary of The Congregational Church of Manhasset United Church of Christ of Manhasset, New York, celebrated at a special Worship Service followed by a Jubilee Brunch on Sunday, April 10, 2016, at the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club, Port Washington, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception in the fall of 1939, The Congregational Church of Manhasset United Church of Christ (UCC) has accomplished great things in its community and throughout the world, touching the lives of thousands with its positive Christian message; and

WHEREAS, Led by Ward Neil and Sherill Newton, an organizational meeting for a congregational-type church was held in August of 1939; on the first Sunday of October, a family service was conducted at Munsey Park Center with an attendance of 12 adults and five children; and

WHEREAS, On April 27, 1940, the Church's charter was granted and services were moved to the Onderdonk Mansion, often referred to as "The White House" on Northern Boulevard, where the first morning service was held; and

WHEREAS, From January through September of 1940, Albert Buchanan, a student at Union Theological Seminary served as Minister; visiting

ministers led the congregation until Reverend Stephen Ayers was called to service in 1941; and

WHEREAS, On April 17, 1941, the Church was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York as The Congregational Church of Manhasset; and

WHEREAS, In February of 1943, The Congregational Church of Manhasset rented a larger building which had previously housed the Munsey Park Golf Club; after Reverend Ayers left, retired minister Reverend Dr. J. Stanley Durkee served as interim minister until a permanent successor could be found; and

WHEREAS, Reverend George Gerald Park, began his 27-year pastorate at The Congregational Church of Manhasset on March 7, 1943; and

WHEREAS, After a large influx of attendance, The Congregational Church of Manhasset held a Groundbreaking Ceremony for its present building in May of 1948; the cornerstone was laid on October 24, 1948, and the building was dedicated on June 12, 1949; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, the parishioners of the Church dedicated a chapel, a church school wing, and a pastor's study; three years later, the Parish Hall stage was completed and in 1962, the pipe organ was installed and the chancel was remodeled; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, The Congregational Church of Manhasset UCC has been blessed with several dedicated assistant and associate ministers, directors of Christian education, choir directors and organists, as well as other members of a committed church staff; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of Reverend Jimmy Only, The Congregational Church of Manhasset UCC stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commemorate the 75th Anniversary of The Congregational Church of Manhasset United Church of Christ observed on April 10, 2016, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Jimmy Only, The Congregational Church of Manhasset United Church of Christ, Manhasset, New York.