

2015-J5586

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Cayuga Museum upon the occasion of celebrating its 80th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Cayuga Museum upon the occasion of celebrating its 80th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, After Theodore Case and his wife, Gertrude, donated their estate to Professor Walter Long, the Cayuga Museum opened its doors to the public for the first time on October 13, 1936, in order to establish a permanent home for arts and culture in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since then, the Cayuga Museum has become focused on the Case Research Lab and the history of Cayuga County and the Finger Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, The Cayuga Museum presents changing exhibitions, public programs, and serves hundreds of researchers annually on three floors of the historic Willard-Case Mansion; its dedicated staff cares for thousands of artifacts, archives and photographs from Cayuga County and the Finger Lakes region, as well as the complete archives and collections of the Case Research Lab; and

WHEREAS, The Case Research Laboratory was founded by Auburn natives, Theodore Willard Case and his father, Willard Case, in 1916; it is on this site where the first commercially successful system of sound film was invented; and

WHEREAS, The Case Research Lab Museum showcases the working spaces of the darkroom, chemistry lab, and recording studio, the first sound

camera, experimental recording equipment, and a history of the commercialization of sound film including such ventures as Phonofilms, Fox-Case Movietone, and Fox Films (now 20th Century Fox); and

WHEREAS, The research, restoration, and interpretation of the buildings and archives of the lab began in 1990; since then, a great deal of history has been unearthed from dozens of notebooks, thousands of pages of correspondence, and many other lab archives; and

WHEREAS, The interpretation of the Case Research Lab's place in history continues to be an ongoing process; with the completion of the newly renovated carriage house, now named Theater Mack, the Museum is looking to the future and a large scale redesign of the exhibit to include Theodore Willard Case's sound studio on the second floor of the carriage house; and

WHEREAS, Completely renovated in 2011, Theater Mack combines the charm of the 19th Century carriage house it once was with exquisitely designed modern amenities; the main floor features a beautiful ballroom, stage and bar, restored 1850s carriage doors, hardwood floors, bead board paneling and luxurious velvet floor-to-ceiling curtains; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its eight decades of existence, attendance has waned; in hopes of attracting new visitors, the Cayuga Museum underwent a makeover, installing new track lighting and chandeliers and uncovering its original hardwood floors, and hosted a Kids Day event on February 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Cayuga Museum also plans to garner information from the residents of the region about what they would like to see at its facility by hosting public forums, appearing at school meetings, visiting other local museums, and conducting an online survey; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, the Cayuga Museum will introduce several new and exciting exhibits which will be of great interest to the people of Auburn and Cayuga county as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The lead exhibit of 2016 will be "Cops and Robbers: Law

Enforcement and Sensational Crime in Cayuga County", which will explore the history of the county's seven police agencies, as well as stories of memorable local crimes; and

WHEREAS, The second exhibit, "Visit Your Museum: A Look Back at the Art and Culture Clubs That Defined Us" will feature the many clubs and organizations which helped create the museum and met regularly there in its early day, such as the Daubers Club, the Cayuga County Historical Society, the Auburn Camera Club and the Cayuga Valley Model Railroad Club as well as many more; and

WHEREAS, Opening in conjunction with "Visit Your Museum" is the Auburn Photography Club's "Circle of Confusion: Three Exhibits, One Focus" which includes new images by the club alongside old ones unearthed from the Museum's archives; in addition, miniature cars from the Cayuga Valley Model Railroad Club will be on display; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Cayuga Museum and Memorial City Hall have teamed up to showcase rotating small exhibits which highlight the history of both Auburn and Cayuga County; some of these exhibits include objects and photographs related to Cayuga County veterans, and local investors; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans' exhibit will highlight items from hundreds of men and women from Cayuga County who served in the War of 1812, World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War, including a group of men who were among the first to land on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in 1944; and

WHEREAS, The exhibit will also feature two prominent residents, Major General John P. Herrling, who served 35 years on active duty, including two combat tours in Vietnam where he received numerous awards and accolades for his meritorious service; and Charles D. Osborne, a member of the 103rd Infantry, 26th Division of the United States Army, a founding member of the Cayuga Museum and Mayor of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, Through these interesting and nostalgic displays and staying true to its educational mission, the Cayuga Museum hopes to spotlight

its place in the community and open a dialogue about what the public wants from it in the future; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Executive Director, Eileen McHugh, the Cayuga Museum strives to provide a forum for the public to realize, interact with and appreciate Cayuga County's shared past and

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unfolding present to help shape a better future; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when institutions of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Cayuga Museum upon the occasion of celebrating its 80th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Eileen McHugh, Executive Director, Cayuga Museum.