

2015-K1387

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of The Rotary Club of Kingston in Kingston, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State that are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and 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 Rotary Club of Kingston, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Kingston, New York is an organization of merchants, innovators and civic leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, It all started 111 years ago when three businessmen rotated their meetings from one office to another and adopted the name "Rotary" and used a wagon wheel as their logo to represent the cog of a well-oiled machine the organization had become; and

WHEREAS, Eleven years later, 30 business and professional men of Kingston joined forces to form a Charter and received Rotary designation on July 16, 1916; and

WHEREAS, Harry L. Edson, an original member of the Kingston Club noticed that poor school attendance was the result of shoeless children and Rotary of Kingston created the first community service project by supplying shoes where needed, and since then Rotary of Kingston has been responsible for responding to countless other local needs, providing scholarships and donations to as many as 25 area agencies; and

WHEREAS, Kingston native Arthur Sheldon became a Charter member of Rotary International, which was active in many parts of the world by 1922; and

WHEREAS, Noted world lecturer Frederic Snyder, a Kingston Charter member and motivational speaker for corporations, created the Order of the Lafayette Baton fraternal society and inducted persons of note to the organization, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, John Burroughs and many others; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, women joined the ranks and paved the way for distaff membership in other service clubs as well; and

WHEREAS, Also in 1988, Rotary Club of Kingston undertook the revival and ongoing maintenance of Kingston Point Park, site of the original Dutch trading post in the 1600s and the gateway for new immigrants at the dawn of the 20th Century; the renovation was a major project that included reconstruction of the large gazebo as a replica of the original, restoration of the large pavilion (formerly the trolley station), a bridge to the peninsula, and construction of a handicapped walkway and restroom facilities, picnic tables, benches and an entrance gate in collaboration with members of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Kingston has encouraged and promoted the idealism of Rotary by sponsoring new clubs in the Cities and Towns of Newburgh, Phoenicia, Poughkeepsie and Woodstock; and

WHEREAS, Rotary club membership now represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women who hold weekly meetings that are nonpolitical, nonreligious and open to all cultures, races and creeds; and

WHEREAS, With more than 34,000 clubs in over 180 countries around the world, Rotary is the premier service organization devoted to helping others; and

WHEREAS, Rotary's centenary year and the target date for the certification of a polio-free world, the Polio Plus program will have contrib-

uted \$500 million to this cause and the Rotary Club of Kingston has contributed funds to immunize over 18,000 children; and WHEREAS, Over \$135,000 was raised by the Rotary Club of Kingston and District 7210 to provide clean drinking water for a hospice facility in Thailand, producing potable water for more than 3,000 patients, orphans, health care workers, monks and volunteers; 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 100th Anniversary of The Rotary Club of Kingston, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Rotary Club of Kingston in Kingston, New York.