

## 2015-J6117

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Vails Gate Body Shop

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 who 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 50th Anniversary of Vails Gate Body Shop; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated with a car show featuring several dozen classic cars as well as music, food and a free raffle on Saturday, June 4, 2016, at Vails Gate Body Shop, Vails Gate, New York; and

WHEREAS, Robert Babcock started Vails Gate Body Shop when he was about 40 years old, although his passion for cars began much earlier as he looked for a car to restore and take to his senior prom in 1944; he found a 1936 Dodge convertible in Newburgh, New York, and lovingly restored it; from that time forward, he was hooked on cars; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, after getting married to his wife, Kayte, Robert Babcock found a small unfinished house on three acres near the Five Corners in Vails Gate on historic Temple Hill Road and built the first Vails Gate Body Shop; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, Vails Gate Body Shop and Robert Babcock Used Cars was established; and

WHEREAS, Robert Babcock's three sons, Ken, Steve and Paul started

working at the shop out of high school, and received their initial training from their father; it soon became their living as well as their hobby; and

WHEREAS, Today, the company is run by brothers Ken and Steve Babcock; Paul Babcock helped run the shop for several years and recently retired, although he is still involved in the business; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1970s, a bigger shop was built; the current shop office was once the family's house, and was transformed in the 1990s, when Robert and Kayte Babcock moved to Rock Tavern, New York; and

WHEREAS, Vails Gate Body Shop sees about three generations of customers; finishing a proper repair and taking pride in their work as well as treating the customer right are three ingredients in the company's recipe for standing the test of time; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Vails Gate Body Shop has worked on thousands of cars, some of which are very expensive, such as Chevilles, Dodge R/Ts, Pontiac GTOs, Buick Gran Sports and Corvettes as well as cars which have hit deer, dogs, turkeys, bear and raccoons; every single car is another story; and

WHEREAS, Cars have changed over the years, from air bags to diagnostic computers to back-up cameras and Vails Gate Body Shop was forced to adapt as cars changed; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Babcock family's recipe is still intact and there continues to be enormous pride in their work and treating people right; and

WHEREAS, As the Babcock family celebrates their 50th Anniversary, they look to the future by continuing to service their loyal customers for as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, The success of Vails Gate Body Shop is possible because of the hard work and vision that started 50 years ago by Robert Babcock, and passed through the generations and onto the generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Vails Gate Body Shop continues to maintain the promise made

50 years ago to ensure that customers receive the same or better quality that has become their trademark since its humble beginnings in 1966; 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 50th Anniversary of Vails Gate Body Shop; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Babcock Family, Vails Gate Body Shop.