

2015-K1492

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Elizabeth and Paul Koenig, owners of the historic Dulles House in Auburn, New York, upon the occasion of its designation as an Historical Landmark

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the preservation of historical landmarks that served to enhance the growth of this great State, ensuring that the complete history of our State and Nation is shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Elizabeth and Paul Koenig, owners of the historic Dulles House in Auburn, New York, upon the occasion of its designation as an Historical Landmark; and

WHEREAS, The three-story, 8,800 square foot mansion, located at 67 South Street, is among Auburn, New York's finest buildings located in this nationally recognized historic section; it was first built in 1833 by Amasa Curtis, however, it was reconfigured in the 1880s, by local merchant E. Delevan Woodruff and his wife, Dorcas Anna Gould; the Woodruff family was connected with several age-old Auburn manufacturers such as Auburn Button Works; and

WHEREAS, The Woodruffs added the house's most distinctive element, the third-story ballroom; the house is also comprised of seven fireplaces constructed of Italian marble or tile, chestnut and cherry woodworking throughout, and a carved elephant head mantel in the dining room, as well as a detached carriage house at the back of the one-acre lot; and

WHEREAS, In 1904, the Woodruffs sold the house to Dr. Allen Macy Dulles, a Professor at Auburn Theological Seminary and Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church; he used the large third-floor space to quiz students on their theology, and people gathered to sing and eat in the

downstairs reception room; and

WHEREAS, The Dulles' five children lived on South Street, two of whom became prominent in national politics; John Foster Dulles served as Secretary of State for President Dwight Eisenhower, and his son, Avery Robert Dulles, became a Catholic Cardinal; in addition, Allen Welsh Dulles served as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1953-1961, and Nataline (Dulles) Seymour served as a nurse; and

WHEREAS, Recently, a historic marker was installed in front of the house noting that it was the childhood home of John Foster Dulles (1888-1959), Secretary of State under President Dwight D. Eisenhower; and

WHEREAS, A grandson of former Secretary of State, John Watson Foster and the nephew of Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of State, Robert Lansing, John Foster Dulles was born in Washington, D.C. on February 25, 1888; and

WHEREAS, During his adolescence, John Foster Dulles spent a year in Paris before attending Princeton University; he attended the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 as part of Bernard Baruch's Reparations Commission and Economic Council; and

WHEREAS, John Foster Dulles married the former Janet Pomeroy, the granddaughter of Theodore M. Pomeroy, an Auburn Mayor, United States Congressman and Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, As a lawyer, John Foster Dulles served on the War Trade Board during World War II; after the war, he entered into private practice, and in 1949, he was appointed to the New York State Senate by Governor Thomas E. Dewey; and

WHEREAS, On January 21, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed John Foster Dulles as his Secretary of State; the two men forged a

strong friendship which granted the Secretary of State direct and unprecedented access to the President; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles

helped maintain a level of peace through the containment of communism which allowed the Eisenhower administration to secure international mutual security agreements while at the same time reducing the number of troops in the United States Military and the production of conventional weapons; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles also enjoyed the close cooperation of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which was run by his brother, Allen Dulles; and

WHEREAS, John Foster Dulles was the first Secretary of State to be directly accessible to the media and to hold the first Department press conferences; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles confronted many foreign policy challenges during his tenure, including the integration of Europe, escalation of the crisis in Indochina, United States response to the Hungarian Revolution, and the Suez Canal crisis of 1956; and

WHEREAS, Despite being diagnosed with advanced stage cancer, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles formulated the EISENHOWER DOCTRINE in response to the Suez Canal; unfortunately, poor health forced him to resign from his position in April of 1959, only weeks before his death on May 24, 1959; and

WHEREAS, To honor this dedicated public servant, the Washington Dulles International Airport was named after him; and

WHEREAS, Born on April 7, 1893, Allen Dulles was the first civilian director of the CIA, a position he held from 1953-1961; he was also a member of the Warren Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 1916, Allen Dulles graduated from Princeton University and then entered diplomatic service; he earned his law degree from George Washington University while serving in the diplomatic corps; after graduating in 1926, he took a job at a New York law firm where his brother, John Foster Dulles was a partner; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Allen Dulles was given the role of station chief of the newly formed Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in

Berne, Switzerland; in 1947, the United States Congress, working closely with Allen, created the CIA as part of the National Security Act; and WHEREAS, In 1951, Allen Dulles was named Deputy Director of the CIA, and two years later, he was promoted to Director under President Dwight D. Eisenhower; throughout his tenure, the CIA grew in size, shape and .SO DOC A R1492 RESO TEXT 2015

scope, and played an important role in the United States' Cold War policy; and

WHEREAS, Born on August 24, 1918, Avery Robert Dulles entered Harvard College in the 1930s; after graduating, he proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge, Avery Robert Dulles attended Harvard Law School for a few semesters before entering the Society of Jesus in 1946; in 1956, he was ordained a Jesuit Priest; four years later, he earned his Doctorate in Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University; and

WHEREAS, Appointed to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II in 2001, Avery Dulles was the first academic to be named to the Catholic Church's highest advisory council; and

WHEREAS, A prolific author, Cardinal Avery Dulles wrote more than 20 books and 800 articles articulating a conservative if tolerant case for Catholicism and the church's positions on various controversial subjects; he served as a bridge between the Vatican and the more liberal American Catholic dissidents after the Second Vatican Council of the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Cardinal Avery Dulles was a professor at Catholic University for many years before he joined the faculty at Fordham University, where he taught until his 2007; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his church, Cardinal Avery Dulles held the title of President of both the Catholic Theological Society of America and the American Theological Society and was a vital member of the International Theological Commission, the United States Lutheran-Roman Catholic

Dialogue, and a consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine; and

WHEREAS, Born on January 22, 1898, Nataline Dulles married James Sayre Seymour; for many years, she served as a nurse in Auburn; and

WHEREAS, The Seymour Public Library District traces its history back to 1876, when the Seymour Library Association was established with a bequest from the estate of James S. Seymour, former President of the National Bank of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, In 1931, the Dulles family sold the house to the State of New York, for use as the residence for the Auburn Correctional Facility Warden; for 70 years the grand home was often used to entertain visiting state officials and committees, host Christmas parties, Boy Scouts meetings and family gatherings; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the magnificent mansion was purchased by Elizabeth and Paul Koenig, who have undertaken an extensive renovation of the building and property; and

WHEREAS, Having lived in New Zealand for many years, Elizabeth and Paul Koenig returned to the United States to be closer to family; in 2010, they moved to a home in Owasco, New York, where Elizabeth quickly immersed herself in volunteering for many local organizations; and

WHEREAS, On her daily walk, Elizabeth Koenig would pass by the gorgeous, but aging 67 South Street home; through the years, the house had been terribly neglected; the kitchen had not been updated since 1950, and none of the eight bathrooms had been modernized, some of which still had their original Victorian-era fixtures; and

WHEREAS, After taking a tour of the house, the couple were pleased to find that the empty structure revealed many intact details, as well as the structure's great architectural bones; Elizabeth Koenig envisioned a bed and breakfast and a unique event venue which played off of the home's history and the setting of Auburn's Historic South Street; and

WHEREAS, After buying the house, Elizabeth and Paul Koenig began renovating the dilapidated mansion, hoping to bring it back to its glory

days; and

WHEREAS, The Koenigs enlisted Auburn native, architect Jonathan Carnes of Crawford and Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners in Syracuse, to fix the leaking roof and repair the crumbling plaster walls and ceilings; and

WHEREAS, Today, the house exhibits an eclectic mixture of federal, Gothic, medieval and craftsman architectural styles, after being modified and enlarged in 1854, and again in 1899; and

WHEREAS, Standing on the front porch, one has the sense of being transported back to an Auburn of a bygone era; the large, deep porch provides a sweeping view of the grand mansions of South Street from both directions, and the elaborate, colorful, mosaic-tiled entryway hints at the level of detail inside the rest of the house; and

WHEREAS, Upon opening the front doors, a visitor enters into a spectacular, large, formal, wood-paneled great hall furnished with antiques and displays of historical photos and documents relating to the house and its notable past occupants; recent updates to the lighting and the addition of new wallpaper and huge gold mirror in the great hall are breathtaking; and

WHEREAS, The extensive woodwork in the large double parlor was painted decades ago, lending a lightness to the huge room, and original wooden shutters, windows and pocket doors in the home have all been repaired to working order by Auburnian Bill Clark, master carpenter on the project; and

WHEREAS, Two matching onyx fireplaces with Greek revival and Victorian detailing, including ionic pillars, flank one wall, and a baby grand piano sits ready in the center of the room; Elizabeth Koenig's playful decorating style includes an enormous, framed 1967 silkscreen print of the Beatles on one wall, and a huge framed 1859 Cayuga County map on another; and

WHEREAS, Above each of the two fireplaces hangs a large painting

depicting area scenes by local artist Sandy Shutter; Elizabeth Koenig has been working with Nino Vitale of Arhaus to provide design consultation and furnishings throughout the home; and

WHEREAS, The library, located across from the main hall, possesses many original details such as the leaded-glass bookcases, and the Greek revival fireplace mantel and mirror; most of the woodwork on the entire first floor was in excellent condition and only required a good cleaning; the newly installed wallpaper perfectly complements the rich brown tones of the cherry woodwork, and there is an interesting collection of

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local interest books for guests to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, It is evident that very skilled craftsmen created the detailing in the square dining room; the massive fireplace features elaborate woodwork with carved elephant heads supporting the mantel, paneling that extends to the adjacent walls, and a mirror; the fireplace is flanked by two beautiful stained glass windows in warm tones of yellow and gold; and

WHEREAS, The dining room also features a coffered wood ceiling; in keeping with the room's nature theme, Elizabeth Koenig kept the blue bird-patterned wallpaper originally selected by May Henderson, the former prison warden's wife, who lived in the home for 19 years; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Koenig has added furniture in scale with the room's size, including a large 1860s antique carved cupboard and a long sideboard; the dining set is the perfect size for a party or large dinner; adjacent to the dining room is an attached enclosed screened porch, wonderful for enjoying cocktails on a breezy summer's evening; and

WHEREAS, A brand-new service kitchen adjoins the dining room in what was once the butlers' kitchen; it is fully equipped with new white cupboards, granite counters, sink, refrigerator, ice machine, and double oven, and is now used by caterers to warm food and stage for parties; and

WHEREAS, Beyond the catering kitchen is the large original kitchen

which has been painted and updated with a new commercial stove and refrigerator; adjoining the kitchen is the original, old-fashioned pantry, with floor to ceiling wooden shelves and cupboards, perfect for storing sundries and linens; and

WHEREAS, The elaborately carved center staircase features a landing with an upholstered window seat below a large stained glass window and renovation of the four guest rooms is now underway; two of the guest rooms are very large and will feature working fireplaces and en suite bathrooms with new lighting, fixtures, including cast iron tubs, tiles and special European heaters and towel warmers; and

WHEREAS, Feeling strongly about hiring Auburn contractors, Elizabeth Koenig had local workers modernize the plumbing, paint and wallpaper of the newly-configured rooms which were partially gutted and restored; and
WHEREAS, Future projects to the exterior and systems include new copper gutters and roof repairs, exterior painting, extensive porch

repairs, furnace and hot water heater repairs, new electrical service, new plumbing, smoke alarm installation and partial rehabilitation of the carriage barn; and

WHEREAS, Today, Elizabeth Koenig's dream of opening a bed and breakfast and an event venue has come to fruition; the house at 67 South Street is now known as the 1840 Dulles Inn and is open for guests to marvel in the elegant design and renovations of this stately historic mansion; and

WHEREAS, Auburn native, Dr. Peter S. Usowski, CIA Director of the Center for the Study of Intelligence, will honor his Auburn roots and his connection with the Dulles family by cutting the ceremonial ribbon for the grand opening of the 1840 Dulles Inn; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the historic Dulles House, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the

history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Elizabeth and Paul Koenig, owners of the historic Dulles House in Auburn, New York, upon the occasion of its designation as an Historical Landmark; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elizabeth and Paul Koenig.