

2017-J4273

Senate Resolution No. 4273

BY: Senator MARCELLINO

HONORING James D. Watson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on April 6, 2018

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to publicly commend those outstanding individuals within the State of New York whose lifelong dedication to research results in groundbreaking discoveries which improve the lives of those across the nation and within our great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor James D. Watson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory at its Gala on Friday, April 6, 2018, in Cold Spring Harbor, New York, and wishing him a very Happy 90th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, James D. Watson has challenged and encouraged generations of young scientists and he remains, as Chancellor Emeritus and Oliver Grace Professor of Cancer Research, a major draw for young people from all corners of the globe; and

WHEREAS, Proceeds from this Benefit Gala will support endowment to honor James D. Watson by naming a future professorship for him; the

Watson Distinguished Professor will continue his legacy of inspiration by providing tomorrow's brightest young scientists with the resources and inspiration to become society's leaders; and

WHEREAS, James D. Watson was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1928; he received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1947 from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1950, both in zoology; and

WHEREAS, Following a National Research Fellowship in Copenhagen, James D. Watson conducted research on a National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis Fellowship at the University of Cambridge, England, where he discovered the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) with Francis Crick; and

WHEREAS, This research emphasized a concept central to the emerging field of molecular biology, and James D. Watson was subsequently awarded the 1982 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for his discovery; and

WHEREAS, After his tenure at Cambridge, James D. Watson spent two years at the California Institute of Technology; he joined the Harvard faculty in 1955, and became professor in 1961; seven years later, while employed at Harvard, he became Director of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL); and

WHEREAS, James D. Watson resigned from Harvard in 1976, to become full-time Director of CSHL; under his able leadership, the renowned but financially endangered institution was revitalized; and

WHEREAS, Also during this time, James D. Watson steered the laboratory into the field of tumor virology, from which emerged our present understanding of cancer genes and the molecular basis of cancer;

and

WHEREAS, In 1988, James D. Watson was appointed Associate Director for Human Genome Research of the National Institutes of Health, and one year later, as Director of the National Center for Human Genome Research; he resigned from this esteemed position after successfully launching a worldwide effort to map and sequence the human genome; and

WHEREAS, James D. Watson served as President of CSHL from 1994 to 2003, and as Chancellor from 2003 until his retirement in 2007; he currently serves as Chancellor Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, James D. Watson has been the recipient of countless awards and accolades, some of which include the Benjamin Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement in the Sciences, Honorary Knighthood of the British Empire, Gairdner Foundation Award of Merit, Lotos Medal of Merit, Othmer Medal, Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award, Gregor Mendel Medal, Gold Medal of Lublin Medical University, Gold Medal of Jagiellonian University, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Award, Capo d'Orlando Prize, and the Prizvanie (Vocation) Award; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary man has received honorary degrees from 35 universities and is the author of numerous books including: The Molecular Biology of the Gene, The Double Helix, The DNA Story, The Molecular Biology of the Cell, Recombinant DNA: A Short Course, A Passion for DNA, Genes, Girls, and Gamow: After the Double Helix, DNA: The Secret of Life, Avoid Boring People: Lessons from a Life in Science, and Father to Son: Truth, Reason and Decency; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Elizabeth, and their two sons, Rufus and Duncan, who have all shown him love and support and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 honor James D. Watson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on April 6, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James D. Watson.