

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Mendon to be celebrated on April 13, 2013

WHEREAS, Each and every city, town, village and hamlet within its borders proudly resonates with the rich and noble history of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate the anniversary of the founding of municipalities throughout the State, noting in turn their contributions to the fabric and development of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Monroe County Town of Mendon, New York, to be celebrated at a Bicentennial Gala at the Mendon Golf Club on Saturday, April 13, 2013, recognizing the significance of this special anniversary and applauding its distinguished history; and

WHEREAS, Once a dense forest with a roaring stream, now known as the Honeoye Creek, the Town of Mendon is today much different from the log cabin era of 1790 when oxen pulled covered wagons through mud holes, our pioneer families planted the seeds of settlement, and wolves howled in the woods behind the clearings; and

WHEREAS, President George Washington ordered the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition in 1779 to break forever the power of the Seneca Indians who fled west hoping for protection from the British on the Niagara Frontier; the Expedition was successful and hastened the development of Western New York; and

WHEREAS, When peace came and the land in the Finger Lakes and Genesee River areas was opened for sale, the word was passed along and settlements sprang up rapidly as people rushed to buy land either for speculation or to farm for themselves; and

WHEREAS, They set out on foot or horseback and drove their stock, while their families usually came by water or covered wagon; very often, the heads of families or older sons came ahead as land hunters, made their selection, bought land, built a hut or cabin and then returned along the trail to pass the winter at the old home and to sell their farm before bringing their family to Mendon; and

WHEREAS, In January, 1789, Ontario County was formed from Montgomery County; the Town of Mendon was originally part of Ontario County and was annexed to Monroe County when it was formed in 1821; Mendon was organized in 1813 and held its first Town Meeting in April of that year at the home of Thomas Ewer at the corner of West Bloomfield and Cheese Factory Roads and later adjourned to his barn; and

WHEREAS, It is believed that Mendon most likely got its name from one of its early settlers, Caleb Taft, who came there from Mendon, Massachusetts; most of the early settlers to Mendon came from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and from the eastern counties of New York State, where their prospects for existence were poor; and

WHEREAS, Between 1792 and 1800, 26 families settled in Mendon, most of them near "Mendon village" or East Mendon, as it was called in early days; and

WHEREAS, In 1800, a road was opened from East Mendon westward; from this time until 1805, numerous groups passed through the area from every part of New England and, before long, the country became more thickly settled; and

WHEREAS, A few men started in the milling business; sites along the streams were selected for their waterpower; a person looking for a mill site explored up and down the stream for a desirable location, and when one was found he went before the Town authorities to secure a writ of ad

quod damnum which enabled the miller to have the adjoining land offi-

cially examined and the possible amount of damage by building a dam estimated; and

WHEREAS, The mills also provided the local farmers with a market for their wheat, corn and oats throughout the 19th century and into the early years of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Town of Mendon continues its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens, ensuring a positive business, institutional and educational climate, and providing all essential services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Mendon, New York, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Town of Mendon, New York.