

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Round Hill Masonic Lodge No. 533, Free and Accepted Masons, Endicott, New York, to be celebrated June 15, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those fraternal organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Round Hill Masonic Lodge No. 533, Free and Accepted Masons, Endicott, New York, to be celebrated June 15, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Resonant with a constancy of theme, the 150-year history of Round Hill Masonic Lodge No. 533, Free and Accepted Masons (F. and A.M.) records the orchestration of a patrimony of unparalleled excellence in commitment to the principles and ideals of Freemasonry; and

WHEREAS, The Free and Accepted Masons are the oldest fraternal organization in the world dating back some 3,000 years; Freemasonry in Endicott has been successful for 150 years because throughout its distinguished history, it has continuously been a great influence in the community by providing leadership, a principled way of life deeply rooted in a system of values, social benevolence, emphasis on individual excellence and serving as a stabilizing force in the community; and

WHEREAS, On the 28th day of January, 1863, a dispensation was granted to 14 masons to hold Masonic meetings Under Dispensation; they were members of Maine Masonic Lodge No. 399, Binghamton Masonic Lodge No. 177 and Otseningo Masonic Lodge No. 435; and

WHEREAS, Brother Solomon Lashier was appointed Worshipful Master, Brother Chauncey W. Shipman, Senior Warden and Brother Frank Fanning, Junior Warden of the Lodge named for the Round Hill in Endicott, New York; and

WHEREAS, All this occurred during the Civil War in the year when the battles of Stone River, Chancellorville, Gettysburg, Chickamauga and Chattanooga were fought; February 3, 1863, marked the first regular Communication of the Lodge Under Dispensation; in attendance were seven members and three visitors; and

WHEREAS, On February 18th, the first two candidates ever to receive a degree in Round Hill Lodge were duly initiated Entered Apprentices; and

WHEREAS, On the evening of June 19, 1863, Round Hill Lodge was consecrated by Most Worshipful Clinton F. Page, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York; it became Round Hill Masonic Lodge No. 533, F. & A. M. under Solomon Lashier, Master, Frank Fanning, Senior Warden, and Lasa Keeler, Junior Warden; and

WHEREAS, The early Brothers held their regular Lodge meetings in the old Elvin Theater Building which was demolished long ago; it continued to be their meeting place until 1907, at which time the Lodge moved to the Commercial Block, the building which still stands in the Union District of Endicott; and

WHEREAS, On January 11, 1915, a motion was passed that the Lydia Chase property be purchased to serve as the Temple and home for the Lodge; and

WHEREAS, In June 1917, 54 years after the Lodge was consecrated, the present Masonic Temple was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies; for many years the Lodge continued to grow and prosper, and the greatest membership was over 1,200 during 1960s - 1970s; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, Round Hill Lodge No. 533 recommended the petitions for Dispensations to establish a daylight Lodge in Endicott, New York,

and a regular Lodge in Vestal, New York; these became Unity-Daylight

Masonic Lodge No. 1146 and Vestal Masonic Lodge No. 1144; and

WHEREAS, A Special Communication was called on December 31, 1917, for the purpose of conferring all Three Degrees upon Mr. E.J. Raitt; the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Thomas Penny, gave a Special Dispensation because Mr. Raitt was about to enter the Armed Forces in World War I; he had the distinction of being the first member of the Lodge to receive the Three Degrees in one day; and

WHEREAS, On April 27, 1959, a resolution was presented from a steering committee of 11 Master Masons, that a Chapter of DeMolay be formed; after much thought and labor, the Chapter was formed and on February 27, 1960, 63 boys were initiated into Round Hill Chapter, Order of DeMolay; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, the Lodge celebrated its 100th Anniversary; on June 14th, the Optimist Club held a parade through the Village with a Masonic float and three Cadillacs filled with Lodge and DeMolay Officers; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1991, the Lodge instituted a continuing tradition of inviting all widows, who are in the area, to a Sunday Afternoon Dinner; the guests are presented with a rose in remembrance of the departed Brother; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, the Round Hill Masonic Lodge No. 533 was an integral part of helping its community recover from the two devastating floods that hit the region; and

WHEREAS, Organizations of singular distinction such as the Round Hill Masonic Lodge No. 533, F. and A.M. provide a model for enhancing the quality of life in the community and, as such, merit the grateful praise of the community of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when institutions of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and most joyously commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Round Hill Masonic Lodge No. 533, F. and A.M., Endicott, New York, to be celebrated on June 15, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Round Hill Masonic Lodge No. 533, F. and A.M.