

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Actors' Equity Association

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Actors' Equity Association, to be celebrated on Sunday, May 26, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1913, Actors' Equity Association is the symbol of excellence in the American Theater and has entertained and challenged Americans with productions on and off Broadway, touring productions and regional theatres across New York State and the country; and

WHEREAS, Representing 49,000 stage actors and stage managers, Actors' Equity Association seeks to promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society; it brings classical and contemporary musicals, comedies, and drama to life on stage; and

WHEREAS, As a major contributor to New York City's economy, Actors' Equity Association and its members are a vital part of the theatre community which is the city's leading tourist attraction; its members have graced the Broadway stages on which modern American drama and musical theatre were born; and

WHEREAS, Actors' Equity Association has always stood fast in defense of equal opportunity and individual rights taking courageous stands against segregation and blacklisting; and

WHEREAS, Actors' Equity Association reacted with compassion and financial support in the 1980s when the AIDS epidemic began, founding Equity Fights AIDS; seven years later Equity Fights AIDS merged with Broadway Cares, forming one of the nation's leading AIDS fundraising organizations and which has also become a leader in progressive health care providing financial support to finding cures to other life-threatening diseases including breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, For the past 100 years, Actors' Equity Association has enhanced the dignity of professional actors by negotiating fair wages, safe working conditions, health insurance and pension for its members, has provided leadership in the areas of funding for the arts, tax reform and subsidized housing, has helped in the development of a strong regional theatre community that makes theatre available to diverse cultural groups and economic levels, and epitomized those who labor in the proud tradition of their crafts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Actors' Equity Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Nick Wyman, Equity President, and Mary McColl, Equity Executive Director.