

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Delta Dam

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend events which symbolize the historical, social and cultural development of this great State and embody the spirit of the principles upon which this Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Delta Dam; and

WHEREAS, During a day of events held on Sunday, August, 26, 2012, the City of Rome and the Towns of Western and Lee celebrated one hundred years of lakeside living and the creation of a very important structure, the Delta Dam, which helped to regulate the waters of the Mohawk River; and

WHEREAS, Delta Dam's construction began in 1908 to impound the waters of the Mohawk River to create a reservoir for the New York State Erie Canal System; it was completed in 1912; and

WHEREAS, At that time, the Erie Canal had low water levels in the summer and canal boats would sometimes be stranded waiting for the rain to come; in order to improve the water levels the locks were enlarged and an aqueduct was built; and

WHEREAS, The new reservoir was named Delta Lake in remembrance of the former Village of Delta; and

WHEREAS, The dam flooded the community of Delta, which was located on the west bank of the river; most of the structures of the village were torn down and moved to new locations before the inundation; and

WHEREAS, Delta Dam flooded some 3,000 acres; the project required the removal of 295 buildings, including seventy homes and the relocation of two cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, Three locks were constructed next to the new dam, with a lift of 63 feet; there was also a 205-foot long cement aqueduct built at the foot of the new dam to carry the Black River Canal over the Mohawk River; another lock was also constructed at the north end just past the aqueduct; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Delta Dam was re-enforced with steel rods to ensure its endurance for many more years to come; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Delta Dam's rich history and enduring contribution to the heritage of the State of New York, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to join in the celebration of its centennial anniversary so that present and future generations may come to appreciate the unique significance history plays in the progression of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Delta Dam.