

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Syracuse VA Medical Center upon its 60th Anniversary rededication celebration

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those occasions when a community asset within our midst celebrates an important milestone; and

WHEREAS, One such occasion is the 60th Anniversary Rededication Program of the Syracuse VA Medical Center; the auspicious event will be celebrated on June 14, 2013, at 800 Irving Avenue in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse VA Medical Center, a member of the Veterans Administration Health Care Upstate New York, opened its doors at 800 Irving Avenue in Syracuse, New York, on June 14, 1953; and

WHEREAS, For the past 60 years, the Syracuse VA Medical Center, a 106-bed facility, has provided our veterans with comprehensive inpatient care services that include: tertiary, primary, surgical, cardiac, maternity, neurological, mental health, rehabilitative, geriatrics, and dental, as well as transitional care with the primary focus on restorative services; specialized outpatient care programs are also made available to veteran patients; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Syracuse VA Medical Center was selected as the VISN 2 preferred site for the Polytrauma Network Site, providing long-term rehabilitative care to veterans and service members who experience severe injuries to the brain; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse VA Medical Center has successfully extended its reach and delivery of primary care through a series of community outpatient clinics located in Auburn, Binghamton, Cortland, Ithaca, Massena, Oswego, Rome, and Watertown; these clinics were established for the purpose of providing quality and convenient health care services to our veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse VA Medical Center has also maintained a strong partnership with the State University of New York Upstate Medical University; this partnership continues to be of great benefit to both institutions, as well as the patients receiving treatment at the Syracuse VA Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, This partnership has helped train hundreds of physicians who have gone forward in the private medical profession, in public health and in other specialties to help promote the welfare of their patients and the public at large; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Syracuse VA Medical Center has eight affiliated nursing education programs and a physician assistant externship with LeMoyne College and a long-standing educational partnership with Syracuse University for field experience for audiology, speech pathology and social work students; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, construction began on a six-floor addition to the Syracuse VA Medical Center to house a new spinal cord injury/disease center with a therapeutic pool, expanded outpatient services, dialysis program, and six new operating rooms. The Medical Center continues renovations for an expanded parking garage and recently completed construction on a new MRI suite, heart catheterization suite and a state-of-the-art emergency department; and

WHEREAS, The formal dedication and official opening of this new, outstanding spinal cord injury/disease center will take place at the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Syracuse VA Medical Center in Syracuse; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that the area of the State of New York served by the Syracuse VA Medical Center is home to more than 35,000 enrolled veteran patients; it is further estimated that most of these patients

reside within a 45-minute drive from Syracuse VA Medical Center and rely on the hospital for emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, The 60th Anniversary Rededication Program was determined to be an appropriate time to pay tribute to those proud men and women from Central New York who have honorably served our nation and asked little in return for their sacrifices, and to those men and women who are actively serving in the military or various reserve units based in our area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and pay tribute to the Syracuse VA Medical Center, its staff, past and present, and to those individuals and institutions that have made the Syracuse VA Medical Center an outstanding facility for our veterans, where they can maintain and regain their health, receive counseling, and learn about new important health practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James Cody, Director of the Syracuse VA Medical Center.