

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the dedication of the Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway on August 2, 2013, and paying tribute to the memory of this American heroine upon the occasion of the centennial of her passing

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend events which evoke the historical, social and cultural development of this great State, and to pay tribute to the memory of individuals of remarkable courage and strength of character, whose purposeful lives embodied the spirit of the principles upon which this Nation was founded, and who made their life's work the support and furtherance of those principles; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to the memory of Harriet Tubman upon the occasion of the centennial of her passing, and to commemorate the dedication of the Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway; and

WHEREAS, The Dedication Ceremony and Signage Unveiling will take place on Friday, August 2, 2013, on the newly designated route at City Hall in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Created on July 30, 2010, the Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway is a portion of State Route 34 extending from the town of Hannibal in Oswego County to the town of Waverly in Tioga County, near New York State's border with Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman, freedom fighter, abolitionist, Union Army spy, suffragist, and humanitarian was born into American slavery in 1822, and endured almost 30 years of involuntary servitude in Maryland before escaping from bondage in 1849; and

WHEREAS, The year after her escape, Harriet Tubman began her amazing 10 year Underground Railroad career, making 19 trips into the South to lead dozens of slaves to freedom; in later years, she became a dedicated and outspoken advocate for women's rights and suffrage, and the plight of all underprivileged people; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman spent the last 50 years of her life in Auburn; she owned a home there, operated a home for aged and indigent African-Americans, and, upon her death in 1913, was buried with military honors in Auburn's Fort Hill Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, The Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway passes through the City of Auburn, and runs directly past the home of Harriet Tubman; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway runs North-to-South, a powerful symbol of the many trips Harriet Tubman made to bring slaves to freedom; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the United States, as well as Canada, municipalities, communities and institutions have honored the life and heroism of Harriet Tubman by naming special days, public buildings, schools, and roads in her honor; in 1944, the United States Maritime Commission launched the World War II Liberty Ship, the SS Harriet Tubman; and

WHEREAS, Naming roads and highways as a means to bind geographic space and American identity is a time-honored practice that serves to enshrine the rich history and the heritage of this great State and Nation; it is the sense of this Legislative Body to join in the celebration of this newly designated highway, so that present and future generations may come to appreciate the unique contribution of its honoree to New York, America, and the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the dedication of the Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway on

August 2, 2013, and to pay tribute to the memory of this American heroine upon the occasion of the centennial of her passing.

