

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Southern Cayuga Central School District upon the occasion of receiving an Anne Frank Horse Chestnut Tree sapling, in recognition of their commitment to social justice and the promotion of freedom

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate the pursuit of excellence in education and service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Southern Cayuga Central School District upon the occasion of receiving an Anne Frank Horse Chestnut Tree sapling, in recognition of their commitment to social justice and the promotion of freedom; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Cayuga Central School Superintendent Patrick Jensen worked together with the Anne Frank Tree Committee Members to site the tree, integrate the siting into the school curriculum, raise money for the occasion and conduct appropriate ceremonies commemorating such an historic event; and

WHEREAS, Meghan Picciano, Sandra Groth, Cathy Mullarny, Dana Mandel, Deb Lampman, Kellie Stiadle, Marilyn Mann, Phillip Donovan, and Bill Zimpfer all served with distinction on the Anne Frank Tree Committee; and

WHEREAS, The district's middle school, located in Poplar Ridge, New York, about 15 miles south of Auburn, New York, received a sapling from the horse chestnut tree outside Anne Frank's hiding place in Amsterdam, now a museum; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Cayuga Central School District will commemorate this significant honor with two ceremonies; one, for the students and faculty of the district, which took place on April 12, 2013, and the second, for the public, will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, Anne Frank's Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Anne Frank and her diary exemplify, in many respects, the horror of the Holocaust to generations; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Anne Frank, a Jewish teenager, hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam, Holland, for two years; during those years of concealment, one of the things she could see from her window was a large horse chestnut tree; and

WHEREAS, Anne Frank made several references to the chestnut tree in her diary which she wrote 'provided me with hope'; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Cayuga Central School District's mission is to educate and empower children so they recognize their ability as individuals to use their thoughts, words and deeds to cultivate and promote understanding; and

WHEREAS, The Anne Frank Tree will serve as a tangible symbol and reminder of the impact each human being can have in creating positive change, improving the quality of life for all members of our community and society, and inspiring others; and

WHEREAS, President of the Cayuga Lake National Bank, G. William Ryan, recently announced a \$10,000 grant on behalf of the Bank for the landscaping, lighting, security and care for the Anne Frank Tree; and

WHEREAS, To the north of the Southern Cayuga Central School District lies Fort Ontario that housed Jewish refugees during World War II; the school is located near the homes of Harriet Tubman and William Seward, both abolitionists who lived near Auburn; and

WHEREAS, Poplar Ridge, where the school is located, was strongly influenced by Quakers who believed in the equality of all men and women; and

WHEREAS, The Women's Hall of Fame is located in nearby Seneca Falls, and the school district's elementary school is named after Miss Emily Howland, who not only worked side by side with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, but also founded many schools for freed blacks and their children in the South; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice 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 to commend the Southern Cayuga Central School District upon the occasion of receiving an Anne Frank Horse Chestnut Tree sapling, in recognition of their commitment to social justice and the promotion of freedom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Southern Cayuga Central School District.