

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the dedication of the new ski lodge at Little Gore Mountain in memory of Joseph G. Minder on July 6, 2013 during the celebration of the Bicentennial of Warren County

WHEREAS, Many skiers return to the slopes of Gore Mountain year after year but few can match the life or the skiing life of the late North Creek resident Joe Minder; and

WHEREAS, He started skiing in 1924 at Hooper's Mine when he was seven years old; he attended school in a two room schoolhouse in North River where skiing was part of everyday academics; and

WHEREAS, By his teens, Joe Minder had left the two room schoolhouse to enroll in North Creek High School; and

WHEREAS, His formative high school years coincided with the rapid development of the North Creek ski industry as well as, a world away, troubling developments in the far east; and

WHEREAS, Joe Minder graduated from North Creek High School in 1936 as most of America reeled from a depression economy and began to take notice of foreign affairs which would pull Joe and many of his friends into war; and

WHEREAS, He recalled of his military service, which began on May 15, 1941, that in less than a year he was a civilian in boot camp, was in the service, had fought in three battles, and was in a prison camp; and

WHEREAS, After training stateside, Joe Minder became associated with the aviation engineers and, within a few months found himself building airstrips at Clark Field in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, By winter, Pearl Harbor had been attacked and Joe Minder, along with other allied forces in the Philippines, found themselves under constant air attack from the Japanese; and

WHEREAS, Attacks on the Philippines became even more intense and the fighting even more furious; in just a short time Joe Minder, who only a few months before had skied the Ridge trail at Little Gore, found himself in the Battles of Agloma Point, Corregidor, and Bataan; and

WHEREAS, When the Philippines finally fell, Joe Minder was taken prisoner by the Japanese, beginning a three year period of terror in his life; and

WHEREAS, Through all those years, in prison camps in the Philippines, aboard Japanese sea vessels, and in the horror of a mainland Japanese prison camp, Joe Minder, often at the risk of death, continued to jot down journal entries on scraps of paper found in the camps; and

WHEREAS, Joe Minder's journal provides a remarkable chronicle of human endurance in camps where disease and torture were the norm and tells a tale of survival against the odds which resonates over many decades; and

WHEREAS, Joe Minder's camp was finally liberated some three and a half years after his capture; following liberation, he was furloughed and spent the next months in and out of hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Returning at last to his parents and his hometown, Joe Minder was still under medical treatment and could not yet handle strenuous labor and, finding skiing to be therapeutic, he recalls going to North Creek to ski a bit and then returning to his parents' home for more medical treatment during the week; and

WHEREAS, During this time, he had also taken to offering young Hazel Allen a ride home from her work at the office of Dr. Glenn, his doctor; and

WHEREAS, Joe Minder and Hazel married in 1948 and had two sons, Bob and Jack, both of whom are skiers in their own right; and

WHEREAS, In a skiing career which encompassed every phase of skiing at Gore Mountain, Joe Minder is well-known to have had the friendliest face on the mountain; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the dedication of the new ski lodge at Little Gore Mountain in memory of Joseph G. Minder on Saturday, July 6, 2013 during the Town of Johnsburg's and the Village of North Creek's celebration of the Bicentennial of Warren County; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joseph G. Minder.