

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Modeste Bedient Memorial Library upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Modeste Bedient Memorial Library upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary to be celebrated on Saturday, June 8, 2013, at the Library, Branchport, New York; and

WHEREAS, Modeste Bedient Memorial Library began in the 1890s when people who loved to read books organized a book club, and in homes throughout the community, club members exchanged books; and

WHEREAS, The library was organized December 4, 1912, at the home of Emma and Verdi Burtch; in February of 1913, members of the original book club applied to New York State for a Charter, and the library officially opened as The Branchport Free Library on April 12, 1913, in a room of the Burtch Building; and

WHEREAS, On April 12, 1940, South Main became the library's second home; now known as the Elizabeth Otis Memorial Library, the library formally opened with its new name on July 15, 1940, and had room for 6,000 books; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 1965, the Cooke Family gifted land, enabling the library to construct an addition; the floor space was doubled, providing room for 10,000-12,000 books, and in 1968, a community room was opened in the basement; and

WHEREAS, In June of 2004, after his wife Modeste's death, Vincent Bedient donated land, and building began on the third home for the library; construction of the new library was completed in February of that year, and on December 5, 2006, a Charter Amendment changed the library to its present name, the Modeste Bedient Memorial Library; and

WHEREAS, The Modeste Bedient Memorial Library maintains its original simplicity with no charge for library cards, and no penalty for overdue books; it is updated with the latest computers and a projection which is used to show movies and give presentations; and

WHEREAS, In addition, a community room within the Modeste Bedient Memorial Library is used for many local activities; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Director/Librarian Karen McKerlie, the Modeste Bedient Memorial Library continues to be a proud and vital part of life in the Town of Jerusalem, 100 years after it began; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Modeste Bedient Memorial Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Modeste Bedient Memorial Library upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Karen McKerlie, Director/Librarian, The Modeste Bedient Memorial Library.