

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Alton J. Shea upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by citizens of this great Nation and Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and full in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Alton J. Shea of Fillmore, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Alton J. Shea was born at home on January 11, 1914, in Winchester, Ontario, Canada, to Adam and Maude Shea; he attended grade school in Ottawa, Canada; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Alton J. Shea attended Houghton College from 1932 to 1936; he then attended Biblical Seminary in New York City before moving to Gates, New York, to pastor a church from 1937 to 1942; it was there that he met and married the love of his life, Aileen Ortlin, on June 17, 1938; and

WHEREAS, During the 1950s and 1960s, Alton J. Shea served several local area congregations as an Interim or Associate Pastor; he moved his family to Wellsville in 1956 where, in addition to ministering for the Wellsville Brookside Wesleyan Church from 1956 to 1970 and part-time in Alfred, he spent 13 years broadcasting on the radio for Wellsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Alton J. Shea then spent seven years in radio production and general missionary work in Gbendembu, Sierra Leone, West Africa, with the Wesleyan Church from 1970 to 1977; in the 1980s, his calling took him traveling as an Ambassador with his wife on church missions that took the couple to Canada, New England, Iowa, and Florida; and

WHEREAS, In the 1990s, Alton J. Shea was a guest minister in Franklinville, Castile, Higgins, Short Tract, and Bishopville churches, all of which are located in New York; he also served as pastor for the Oramel United Methodist Church from 1993 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, Alton J. Shea and his wife, Aileen, together raised three children, Jonathan, Eila, and Paul; they have been further blessed with five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Alton J. Shea is a proficient carpenter, mechanic, plumber, and gardener; he also enjoys playing the trumpet, trombone, and autoharp as well as singing and directing choirs; his interests include: book binding, playing hockey, making toboggan slides, and upholstering; and

WHEREAS, Alton J. Shea is known by his family, friends, and the community as a faithful prayer warrior, an artist's spouse, a devoted family man, and a constant reader of the Bible; and

WHEREAS, This beloved man has enriched the lives of those around him through his smile, jubilation, faith in God, and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and honor the lives of beloved citizens who have reached a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments, and awesome achievements of this country during the last century; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Alton J. Shea upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alton J. Shea.