

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and acknowledge certain institutions that improve the quality of life for individuals and communities within this great Empire State through historical and educational resources; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, It is important that local communities protect and preserve their history to share with current and future generations; the first recorded discovery of oil in North America was made right in Allegany County; in 1627, a French missionary was led to the oil spring by local Senecas; the spring is located in what is now Cuba, New York; and

WHEREAS, By 1881, production had reached over six million barrels per year in Allegany County and over one million barrels in Cattaraugus County; oil production peaked in the 1940s with the production of over four million barrels per year in Allegany County and close to two million in Cattaraugus County; and

WHEREAS, The Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc. was established in 1964 by the New York State Oil Producers Association (NYSOPA); the museum's mission is to house in a readily available, central location, articles and information of historical value or interest pertaining to the New York State Oil Industry; they also accumulate and display artifacts related to the local petroleum industry; and

WHEREAS, The main organizers of the museum were Bill Hogan and Clarence Schaffner; a building was purchased in Bolivar, New York, and various improvements such as the addition of a vertical "board and batten" siding to restore the late 1800s original look, and the installation of a large, colorful sign for the museum's front were completed before opening it to the public; and

WHEREAS, The museum officially opened to the public during the Village of Bolivar's Sesquicentennial in 1975, and became an instant hit with the community; and

WHEREAS, Interest continued to grow when the Pioneer Oil Days were held in the 1980s; during the annual celebration, numerous events took place at the museum such as bit dressing demonstrations and access to a working forge; and

WHEREAS, From the 1980s until 2000, the museum was kept running by Tom Manning who managed staffing and maintenance; he left the area in 2000, when the museum was placed in the hands of a newly formed Board of Directors who have managed the museum ever since; and

WHEREAS, The Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc. hosts many events throughout the year which provide educational opportunities; the museum also supports local history and statewide history through a wide range of documents, photos, displays, and online tools; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate milestones in the histories of certain exceptional institutions in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Pioneer Oil Museum of New York.