

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Onondaga Historical Association

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations which devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Onondaga Historical Association; and

WHEREAS, In early 1862, during a devastating Civil War, in which central New York citizens were playing an increasingly pivotal role, a group of community leaders decided that it was important to preserve and document the history they were witnessing and experiencing; the organization they formed for this purpose, the Onondaga Historical Association (OHA), was officially chartered in 1863; and

WHEREAS, Now, in 2013, OHA enters its sesquicentennial year with great pride; it is the oldest cultural organization in Onondaga County and one of the earliest historical associations in the country; and

WHEREAS, OHA has evolved tremendously over the past 150 years into a vibrant association of heritage-related museums, research and educational centers, historic sites, and retail venues in Onondaga County; its collections consist of well over a million items, including the May 1775 "General Association for...the Rights and Liberties of America", which was the first document of the very first representative government of New York; it also consists of the earliest known photograph of Frederick Douglass, along with the largest private collection of portraits by Charles Loring Elliott, the most accomplished and renowned portraitist of the 19th century; and

WHEREAS, OHA's collections have informed exhibits, educational programs and publications on a state, national and international level; as a major local cultural institution, it embraces its serious role as an economic engine for the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations which enhance the well-being and vitality of their communities and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Onondaga Historical Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Onondaga Historical Association.