

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that institutions which are founded in educational purpose, and which help to preserve the history and heritage of a people, merit the highest commendation; 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 Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center; this auspicious milestone will be celebrated with a yearlong celebration including its Canal Mule Parade, a fundraiser and promotion of Waterford; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, after the White Homestead was purchased by the Waterford Historical Society; The Committee for Waterford Museum was established as a branch of the Historical Society, charged with raising the funds and organizing the move of its new location; the committee was chartered by the New York State Department of Education as the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center and their mission became to improve the cultural, educational and historical atmosphere of Waterford; and

WHEREAS, Starting in early 1964, and ending with the grand opening dedication on September 15, 1966, volunteers spent thousands of hours fund raising, working on the building, running programs, starting the Museum collections, all in preparation to open the new Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, On September 25, 1965, the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center officially opened its doors to the public with a small collection of items; soon after its opening, the museum started off with a Festival of History and Art, and programs were held at least once a week for two months; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, the efforts of the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center's volunteers were officially honored, and the organization was awarded the New York State Council on the Arts "New York State Award 1968"; this auspicious award recognized the significant contribution to the quality of life and the artistic enhancement of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center also sponsors a wonderful program for fourth graders in the area, CanalWays, which is a unique hands-on outdoors history experience, based on New York State Social Studies Standards for the fourth grade; The New York State Canal Corporation, the Waterford Canal and Towpath Society, and the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center join the museum in an all day, multiple location, hands-on program for fourth grade classes; and

WHEREAS, CanalWays is geared to enhance the students' understanding of the history of canals, its impact on society and the canal today; the program runs for 5-7 days and serves up to 100 students per day, including visits to five stations where the students learn about canal history in different learning environments; and

WHEREAS, CanalWays has been recognized as a worthy model for other museums around the state by the Museum Association of New York, and the Museumwise, formerly the Upstate History Alliance; in March of 2008, the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center was selected to give a presentation about CanalWays as part of a workshop for other museum

professionals at the Museum Association of New York/Upstate History Alliance Annual conference; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, cherished, preserved, and bodily removed in space, a fine historic house, was rescued from destruction by a dedicated group of individuals, and now houses communal aspiration in the arts; and

WHEREAS, The expert staff of the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center are and always have been characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence, and accordingly merit the commendation of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center; and it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center.