

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Friedsam Memorial Library at St. Bonaventure University

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge certain exemplary institutions that strive to provide educational and cultural opportunities to benefit their communities within this great Empire State through increased access to educational resources; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body hereby commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Friedsam Memorial Library at St. Bonaventure University; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Michael Friedsam, a philanthropist committed to the importance of education established a foundation dedicated to his ideals; after he passed away, the Friedsam Foundation donated the funds necessary for the construction of a new library at St. Bonaventure University; and

WHEREAS, St. Bonaventure's library needed a new building for its growing collection after spending 50 years in Alumni Hall; groundbreaking for the new library took place on May 21, 1937; and

WHEREAS, Less than a year after beginning construction, 40,000 volumes were transferred by hand from Alumni Hall to the new building in only eight hours by students and seminarians using a "Bucket Brigade" system; Friedsam Memorial Library was dedicated on March 7, 1938; and

WHEREAS, The building was built with a unique and beautiful design, one that is architecturally detailed and contains many important symbolic features; over the years the building has seen significant additions and modernization, yet it still retains its original aesthetic beauty; and

WHEREAS, Friedsam Memorial Library is the home of the Franciscan Institute and holds the most important collection of Franciscana in North America; and

WHEREAS, Construction of a Rare Books Wing began in 2007 and was completed in 2008; it houses 10,000 rare books and manuscripts using state-of-the-art environmental controls and systems to protect these valuable materials; and

WHEREAS, The library offers a wide range of traditional and electronic resources available to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests including over 350,000 titles, 11,500 reference titles, and more than 35,000 electronic serials titles in their databases; reference librarians provide help in person, via email, over the phone and through text messaging; the library also maintains a variety of special collections and archived materials; and

WHEREAS, Friedsam Memorial Library continues to be an important location on campus for research, study and socialization; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Friedsam Memorial Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Friedsam Memorial Library at St. Bonaventure University.