

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Salem

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the proud and distinguished histories of the towns and villages which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Salem, in Washington County, New York; and

WHEREAS, In the summer of 1764, three men from Pelham, Massachusetts, James Turner, Joshua Conkey, and Hamilton McCollister, built the first log cabin in what is now the Town of Salem, and acquired title to 25,000 acres of lush wooded hillsides, as well as clear streams containing abundant wildlife; their families and others from Pelham came to settle one-half of the land now known as Turner's Patent; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, James Turner conveyed the other half of the property to two land speculators, Oliver Delancy and Peter Dubois; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1764, three hundred citizens from Ballybay, County Monaghan, Ireland, left their homes and families in search of religious freedom, and a suitable place for their families in America; and

WHEREAS, Led by their Presbyterian seceder minister, Dr. Thomas Clark, they arrived in New York City in July of 1764; in this search, Dr. Thomas Clark happened upon Oliver Delancy and Peter Dubois, and a deal was made to acquire one-half of the Turner Patent for the Irish Presbyterians; and

WHEREAS, These largely serendipitous arrangements between land speculators, Irish immigrants, and families emigrating from New England, formed the foundation of the settlement of the Town of Salem 250 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Of historic origin, and remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Town of Salem continues to provide the quintessential quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, The residents of the Town of Salem have a bright outlook for the future of their community, which remains a beautiful place in which to live and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Town of Salem's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited town/village upon the occasion of its 250th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Salem, and to enthusiastically salute its residents as they celebrate this auspicious occasion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Town of Salem.