

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Portland, New York

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the proud and distinguished histories of the people and communities 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 200th Anniversary of the Town of Portland, in Chautauqua County, New York; and

WHEREAS, With a history going back to the Holland Land Company Purchase, the Town of Portland was officially established on April 9, 1813; it initially included the present-day Towns of Westfield and Ripley which were later subdivided from the Town of Portland; and

WHEREAS, The first settler in Portland was Captain James Dunn, a Revolutionary War soldier who moved his wife and six children to the area in 1805; the home he built in 1806 became a center for the town, including holding the first church services in Town; and

WHEREAS, Early settlers in the Town of Portland faced the challenges of living in an area without roads, difficult winters and wild animals; these hardy families built the farms, mills, churches, post offices, schools, stores and vineyards that enabled the Town to grow and thrive; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, from the War of 1812 to present day, the citizens of the Town of Portland have bravely volunteered their service, and even their lives, to defend liberty and freedom in our country; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Portland is a center of fruit-growing in the State of New York; the introduction of grapes and the creation of the grape industry in Western New York can be traced back to Elijah Fay, one of the first settlers in the Town of Portland; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Portland has played an important role in the history of our country and the establishment of our popular culture; George Pullman, the designer and manufacturer of Pullman sleeping cars, was born in the Town of Portland; Brad Anderson, who grew up in the Town of Portland, created the comic strip MARMADUKE, which he continues to draw and is syndicated in newspapers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the Town of Portland proudly celebrate its long and vibrant history, and they look forward to its future; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and honor milestones in the history of communities large and small in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Portland; and be it further

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