

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Warwick Valley Chorale

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those musical organizations which have brought entertainment and cultural enrichment to the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Warwick Valley Chorale which was celebrated at two holiday concerts at the Goshen Methodist Church and St. Stephen's Church in Warwick, New York, on December 11 and 13, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Orange County's longest continually-active singing group, the Warwick Valley Chorale is an outstanding community chorus with members ranging from high school students to senior citizens from across Orange County and neighboring New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Founded on June 18, 1940, the Warwick Valley Chorale began as the Warwick Summer Chorale; organized and directed by Kate Fowler Chase, it held its first concert, with 16 women participating, on November 28, 1941; and

WHEREAS, The Queen Village Glee Club was formed five years later with Reverend John Lennon as Director; this group held its first Christmas concert, with 20 men singing, in December of 1946, followed by a spring concert in May of 1947; and

WHEREAS, In December of 1948, Reverend Irving Decker of the Warwick Reformed Church invited the two groups to join for the first Community Christmas Candlelight Service; the groups continued to present their separate concerts until 1970, when they joined in a single presentation, each group led by its own director and accompanist; and

WHEREAS, Finally, in 1979, the two groups united to become the Warwick Valley Chorale; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the Warwick Valley Chorale has performed at numerous local events, including high school baccalaureates, the Organ Dedication Service at the Warwick Reformed Church, and the blessing and dedication of the new wing of St. Anthony Community Hospital, as well as at the World Trade Center Warwick Citizens Memorial Benefit; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Warwick Valley Chorale served as Chorus in Residence at the Warwick Music Festival for five years; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Warwick Valley Chorale presents free-admission concerts each May and December in Warwick, and neighboring communities under the direction of its esteemed director, Stanley Curtis, and gifted accompanist, Gail Johnson; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed musical chorus has also extended its activities to other communities by singing back-up to Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers at the Paramount Theater, and performing in concerts at the United States Military Academy at West Point, Carnegie Hall, and at the Voices of Hope concert in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Warwick Valley Chorale's members have performed abroad with the Jonathan Griffith Singers in Czechoslovakia, Spain, Australia and China and with MidAm International in Greece and Austria; and

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be overestimated; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when musical societies of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our

attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Warwick Valley Chorale; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Director, Stanley Curtis, and Accompanist, Gail Johnson, the Warwick Valley Chorale.