

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the Bicentennial of the Town of Springwater, New York, to be celebrated on April 17, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize events of significance which exemplify the history and development of the State of New York; each city, town, village and hamlet within the borders of our great Empire State proudly resonates with the rich and noble history; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate the anniversaries of the founding of municipalities throughout the State, noting in turn their contributions to the fabric and progression 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 Bicentennial of the Town of Springwater, New York; this auspicious milestone will be celebrated on Sunday, April 17, 2016, at the Springwater Fire Hall; and

WHEREAS, The founding of the Town of Springwater, New York, evolved by an act of the New York State Legislature; the new township was erected on April 17, 1816; the Township of Springwater was formed by land from the townships of Naples to establish the eastern boundary and Sparta to mark the western boundary; and

WHEREAS, Livingston County was erected February 23, 1821, from land taken from Ontario and Genesee counties, thus making the Township of Springwater nearly five years older than Livingston County; and

WHEREAS, The Seneca Nation of Indians were the last of the Native American Tribes to inhabit the valley; they were members of the Iroquois Confederacy and were known as "the keepers and custodians of the western gate of the Iroquois Indians"; and

WHEREAS, Artifacts found in this area, judged by carbon dating testing, indicate that earlier Native Americans or aboriginal cultures also visited the land, perhaps centuries before the Senecas appeared; and

WHEREAS, In 1806, after the harvest, the first known European residents, Seth Knowles, accompanied by his son, Jared, and another man, Peter Welch, followed an Indian trail over Bald Hill in the Town of Canadice to Springwater Valley; approximately one mile from the head of Hemlock Lake, the men made a small clearing and built a log cabin on property known as Lot No. 4; and

WHEREAS, For the winter, they returned to Livonia, and on March 31, 1807, Seth Knowles and his family came back to Hemlock Lake and took possession of the cabin, becoming the first of many settlers who would follow them in the 10 years prior to an official town being organized; and

WHEREAS, The first colonists formed a settlement that would eventually become the Hamlet of East Springwater, located in the northeast part of the town; and

WHEREAS, The town was called Middletown by many and the valley referred to as Springwater Valley; when the first organizational meeting was held in April 1817, it was suggested that the town be called Knowlesville to honor the first settler family, but that met with opposition; Mr. John Roberts, also an early settler, then suggested Springwater remarking that he had never before seen a place where the springs were so numerous, and thus the hamlets united and the town became known as Springwater; and

WHEREAS, On April 17, 1816, the New York Legislature enacted Chapter CCVI (206) of the Laws of 1816 to create the Town of Springwater, effective the first Monday of April next; the founding of the Town of Spring-

water is inherently linked to the settlement of western New York State,

and is the second largest town in Livingston County; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Springwater Town Board and the Bicentennial Committee will celebrate this auspicious milestone with numerous events to be held on Sunday, April 17, 2016; in addition, several residents are inaugurating a year filled with activities commemorating the history and camaraderie of the people who first settled in this area and the legacy of their lives and achievements for those who are living here now and for those who have yet to come; and

WHEREAS, On May 30, 2016, there will also be a Memorial Day service to honor and acknowledge the many hero-volunteers of Springwater's past who have served in all branches of the military dating back to the Revolutionary War, and to recognize the service of these men and women who defended the freedoms and principles of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Town of Springwater will hold its 17th Annual Springwater Gala June 4-5, 2016, further acknowledging the history of the town by celebrating its agrarian roots and current achievements; and

WHEREAS, Remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Town of Springwater continues its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens, ensuring a positive business, institutional and educational climate, and providing all essential services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Town of Springwater, New York, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Deborah Babbitt-Henry, Supervisor of the Town of Springwater, New York.