

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Dorothy Welch Choral Society

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those musical organizations that 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 40th Anniversary of the Dorothy Welch Choral Society; and

WHEREAS, The Dorothy Welch Choral Society began in the town of Mechanicville, in 1976, as the Bicentennial Choir to honor the nation during the towns celebration of the Nation's Bicentennial year; it was formed by David Johnson, a native of Mechanicville and a prominent music teacher and choir director; and

WHEREAS, After the celebration, many residents wanted to keep the Bicentennial Choir going; it was decided then to change the name to the Dorothy Welch Choral Society; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Welch, a music teacher in Mechanicville for over 40 years at four elementary schools as well as the Junior/Senior High School, was well-known for bringing talented vocal musicians together, whether bass, tenor, alto and soprano, she taught harmony; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Dorothy Welch passed at the age of 65, but her husband, Joseph Welch, felt it was a great honor for his wife and approved the name change; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 40 years, this magnificent choir entertained thousands of people who love music; it began as an all women's choir but men were soon welcomed into the group; in 1979, in addition to their regular performances, the choir performed for Channel 13's Toys for Tots; and

WHEREAS, David Johnson was the Director for the first five years; after he left, there has been five different directors including Vern Hellijas who has been the director for 16 years; the members have expanded from Mechanicville to folks from all over the capital region; and

WHEREAS, While the choir may perform at special occasions, there are two main performances, one in the spring to honor the nation's military and the other to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season; during the holiday season, the Dorothy Welch Choral Society are very active in fundraising for community groups; and

WHEREAS, While over the years hundreds of singers have given their time and talent there have been two members since the inception; Jackie Johnson Morrell and Nancy Johnson Capen have both performed with the group every year for 40 years; 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 40th Anniversary of the Dorothy Welch Choral Society; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Dorothy Welch Choral Society.