

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of C. J. Hooker Middle School in Goshen, New York, on April 2, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of this noble 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 75th Anniversary of C. J. Hooker Middle School in Goshen, New York, to be celebrated at an event on Saturday, April 2, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Goshen community is invited to view an exhibit of C. J. Hooker Middle School's historical artifacts such as photos, yearbooks, sports memorabilia, furniture and more; in addition, guests can tour the school and listen to lectures on the building's history; and

WHEREAS, The schools of a community reflect the character and values of that community; the residents, school officials, parents, faculty and students of C. J. Hooker Middle School, on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary, take just pride in its history of quality in leadership, teaching, achievement and community support; and

WHEREAS, In 1773, the Farmer's Hall Academy (now the Goshen Town Hall) opened its doors to students for the first time; one of its most notable teachers and Principals was Noah Webster, the father of the modern Dictionary; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, many other small, private schools and public schools were opened, many of which were one or two room schoolhouses similar to the 18th Century stone schoolhouse on Route 17M between Goshen, New York, and Florida, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1911, some of Goshen's village schools consolidated when the yellow brick school on the corner of Main Street and Erie Street was constructed; in 1924, Charles J. Hooker became Principal of the Erie Street school; and

WHEREAS, With the rise of the automobile it became possible to further consolidate the area schools; in 1937, voters approved the consolidation of 13 rural school districts into one Goshen School District, which was to be built under Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal; and

WHEREAS, Residents of Goshen did not approve of the original building plans and voted the proposition down by 33 votes; the building's architect simplified the design, eliminating two cupolas and flattening the peaked roofs over the gym and auditorium reducing construction costs; subsequently, the building was approved by a slim margin of 17 votes; and

WHEREAS, Construction on the new high school began in 1939, and despite labor union disputes, some work related injuries and even a hold up where the worker's payroll was stolen, the building opened in the fall of 1940; and

WHEREAS, When a new high school was built in the 1970s, the C. J. Hooker School was converted into a middle school, which is still in use today; not only is the School one of the most architecturally beautiful schools in the area, it is also an exceptional academic institution; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Principal William Rolon, the C. J. Hooker Middle School remains committed to providing children with the foundation to be successful students, to provide children with the confidence to ask questions, and to instill in children the compassion and inspiration to make a difference; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is very pleased to have this opportunity to salute C. J. Hooker Middle School for its long history of

purposeful endeavor which has greatly benefited the community of Goshen, New York, and to wish this worthy organization continued success in future years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of C. J. Hooker Middle School, in Goshen, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to William Rolon, Principal, C. J. Hooker Middle School.