

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Genesee ARC on March 12, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities of New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry and have made strong contributions to the disability community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Genesee ARC at its Golden Gala Art Show and sprout film festival on Saturday, March 12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Genesee ARC strives to support people with disabilities in partnership with their families and the community; the organization embraces individuals and nurtures their social, spiritual, physical, and emotional growth; and

WHEREAS, Known as the resource of choice for people with disabilities and their families, the Genesee ARC provides a broad range of opportunities which address their clients changing needs and life-long aspirations; and

WHEREAS, The Genesee ARC envisions a future in which all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are fully included as members of a community which embraces the diversity of all people, and values people for who they are in a safe and caring environment; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization began with an ad in THE DAILY NEWS announcing a gathering for area parents of children with mental retardation; in 1957, the first parent meeting was held at the YWCA in Batavia; and

WHEREAS, For the first time, many of these parents had the opportunity to speak candidly about family issues that were so entwined in their everyday lives; this coalition of parents and friends of children with disabilities, determined to change society's traditional disregard for the needs of their children, joined a state association of parents; and

WHEREAS, On May 1, 1966, Genesee ARC, a chapter of NYSARC Inc., was founded by 12 dedicated parents and friends committed to improving the lives of children with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding, members' grassroots effort, programs and services for people with disabilities have grown at a dramatic rate; things that many people take for granted, such as having a job, an education, choices for recreation and being able to live on their own, are things for which those with disabilities often find most difficult; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Genesee ARC is to help all individuals with disabilities achieve their fullest potential in whatever their dreams or aspirations may be for the future; for 50 years, the staff at the ARC has been providing programs, such as residential, employment, service coordination, family support and habilitation services which have made an important impact in the lives of over 450 children and adults with disabilities this year alone; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Genesee ARC is in direct correlation to the efforts of the dedicated staff and administrators who work tirelessly to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have the support they need to live an ordinary American life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and 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 50th Anniversary of the Genesee ARC on March 12, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Genesee ARC.