

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the creation of Van Cleef Lake to be celebrated August 7-20, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the proud and distinguished histories of the people and communities which comprise the noble body 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 100th Anniversary of the creation of Van Cleef Lake to be celebrated August 7-20, 2015, in Seneca Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, In the early 19th Century, the Village of Seneca Falls experienced tremendous growth as dozens of mills and water powered industries were established along the south side of the Seneca River; as the area became a world leader in manufacturing, a neighborhood known as "The Flats" became the center of much of its commercial activity; and

WHEREAS, On August 20, 1915, a major transformational event occurred in the history of the Seneca Falls community when improvements to the Cayuga-Seneca Canal led to the flooding of The Flats, creating today's Van Cleef Lake, and the highest operating locks in the New York State Canal System; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the development of this new canal system, 116 commercial enterprises and 60 residences were forced to relocate or be demolished as the water level was planned to rise by 60 feet; and

WHEREAS, Mynderse Van Cleef, a former Seneca Falls resident who was living in Ithaca, offered the Seneca Falls Board of Trustees a significant contribution towards the improvement of this new body of water if they would name it Van Cleef Lake; and

WHEREAS, The improvements to the Cayuga-Seneca Canal and the creation of Van Cleef Lake left an indelible mark on the history of Western New York, contributing to the area's development in the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize events of historical significance within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present and future generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Seneca Falls' rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to Seneca Falls on the 100th Anniversary of this historic occasion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the creation of Van Cleef Lake to be celebrated August 7-20, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Carol Ritter Wright, Chairperson of the Van Cleef Lake Centennial Committee in Seneca Falls, New York.