

BY: Senator LARKIN

COMMEMORATING the completion of the 31st year of the Grand Montgomery Chamber Music Series, and paying special tribute to founders Howard and Judy Garrett

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 underestimated; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the completion of the 31st year of the Grand Montgomery Chamber Music Series, and to pay special tribute to founders Howard and Judy Garrett; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will be celebrated during the intermission of the last concert in the 2017-18 series on Sunday, May 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Howard Garrett and officials from the Village of Montgomery, New York, established the Grand Montgomery Chamber Music Series 31 years ago to offer fine music with exceptional musicians to Hudson Valley residents free of charge; and

WHEREAS, Howard Garrett worked diligently to gather sponsors, choose the performing artists, and arrange for the performing venues to be available; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the efforts of Howard and Judy Garrett, for the past 31 years, from September through May, music lovers have been able to attend performances by a variety of talented performing artists and musicians, including vocalists, pianists, violinists, cellists, and flutists, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, An exceptional musician in his own right, Howard Garrett is an accomplished Monkey Organ player, and vocalist, having performed as the Lead Basso with the Long Island Gilbert and Sullivan Society; he also served as the assistant to Seymour Dekoven, the classical music radio host in the 1950s and early 1960s; during this time, Howard developed a deep appreciation for Baroque music; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Howard Garrett began hosting a Classical Music Lovers Guild each month in Queens, which continued after he moved to Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, From 1989-1992, Howard Garrett hosted a weekly Sunday morning classical music program on radio station WTBQ, where he enjoyed playing music from his favorite composers: Bach, Brahms, Schubert, and Handel; from 1994 to 1997, he served on the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Among his many awards and accolades, Howard Garrett was honored as an Orange County Champion of the Arts by the Orange County Arts Council in 2008 for his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to the arts; and

WHEREAS, Judy Garrett is also an incredibly talented vocalist and pianist; she was a member of the Huntington Choral Society when she and Howard first met; since then, she has performed at many venues throughout Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Together, this music loving couple owns over 5,000 vinyl records, cds, and tapes; the collection focuses on Baroque music, but also includes music by Pete Seeger and other 1960s folk music groups; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the importance of the performing arts, which act to inspire, enlighten, and unify people from all cultural backgrounds through the transcendent power of human expression; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the completion of the 31st year of the Grand Montgomery Chamber Music Series, and to pay special tribute to founders Howard and Judy Garrett; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Howard and Judy Garrett.