

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the Bicentennial Anniversary of the
Observer-Dispatch

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those illustrious journalistic entities which have diligently and consistently, year after year, recorded the history of their communities and brought local news and news of the larger world to their readers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the Bicentennial Anniversary of the **Observer-Dispatch** in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Published continuously for the past 200 years, the **Observer-Dispatch** is the Mohawk Valley region's flagship newspaper; throughout its history, the paper has reported on the area's booms and busts, crimes and creativity, births and death and so much more; the paper has tracked the little city's rise from a tiny canal town to a 20th Century regional economic powerhouse; and

WHEREAS, In 1817, Eliasaph Dorchester founded the weekly newspaper, the **Utica Observer**; in 1848, it became a daily newspaper and, after several mergers with other newspapers, became the **Observer-Dispatch** in 1922; and

WHEREAS, In that same year, the **Observer-Dispatch** was purchased by Frank E. Gannett, who founded the Gannett Company; he owned the newspaper until 2007, when it was purchased by GateHouse Media, one of the largest publishers of locally based print and online media in the United States; and

WHEREAS, For a while, the **Daily Press** was published in the morning and the **Observer-Dispatch** in the afternoon; in 1959, those newspapers were awarded the Pulitzer Prize for public service for an investigation into local corruption; and

WHEREAS, The two newspapers merged into a single, seven-day morning publication, the **Observer-Dispatch**, in 1987; the company added digital delivery of news and information in January of 2000, when it launched uticaOD.com; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Gatehouse Media acquired the **Mid York Weekly** newspaper, serving Hamilton, New York, and weekly **Pennysaver** publications, which are distributed throughout Oneida and Herkimer counties; in addition, the company publishes **Your Valley** in Herkimer County; and

WHEREAS, The **Observer-Dispatch**, now two centuries old, has kept the citizens of Utica and both Oneida and Herkimer counties informed and

enlightened about their communities that command their interest and shape their lives; it presents news, opinions, and feature stories of paramount interest to residents of the Mohawk Valley; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Publisher, Terry Cascioli and Executive Editor, Ron Johns, the **Observer-Dispatch** continues to maintain a high quality and relevant newspaper, and delivers a superior product to all of its readers, as well as serves as an expressive voice to the people of his community by providing a platform for all members of the community; and

WHEREAS, Our newspapers provide a tremendous service to citizens across the State of New York by keeping them informed about current events; the democracy of our State and Nation is strengthened by a responsible citizenry which is actively engaged in reading and kept abreast of news affecting their lives; and

WHEREAS, As the **Observer-Dispatch** moves into the future, it carries with it the legacy of a distinguished journalistic history and an outstanding record of growth and achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Bicentennial Anniversary of the **Observer-Dispatch**; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Terry Cascioli, Publisher, **Observer-Dispatch**.