

BY: Senator BORRELLO

COMMEMORATING the 150th Anniversary of the Cuba
Circulating Library

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary organizations whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Cuba Circulating Library; and

WHEREAS, With humble beginnings, the Cuba Circulating Library evolved from a group of community residents who gathered on September 21, 1872, at the local Baptist Church to discuss the need for a village library; and

WHEREAS, Historians have recorded that a "sociable and supper," for the purpose of raising money to rent a library room, was held and, in 1873, the first space was rented at the Palmer Hall; during this time, the library's collection consisted of approximately 700 volumes; and

WHEREAS, By 1902, the membership was recorded as 800 patrons and the collections had grown to 2,450 volumes; later, the name was changed to Cuba Circulating Library Association and The Reverend J. C. Seeley was elected as librarian; and

WHEREAS, With its rapid growth, space soon became an issue and the organization moved to the Eldridge Block on the corner of East Main and Genesee Streets, where the library remained until a fire destroyed the block in 1921; and

WHEREAS, In 1922, 50 years after its founding, the Cuba Circulating Library had one of its greatest moments when the last will and testament of Elisabeth Sheldon, a former librarian, bequeathed \$30,000 to the association for the construction and endowment of a new library; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the will stated the corporation name should be the Cuba Circulating Library, the building was to be erected, and the institution must forever remain a free library; and

WHEREAS, Soon thereafter, the property at the corner of East Main and Maple Streets was acquired and a new tudor style arts and crafts building was placed on the site in 1924; and

WHEREAS, Continued growth and the subsequent demand for more services made expansion necessary and in 1997, another bequest of \$270,000 from Elisabeth Hixson Rossiter, who served as both assistant librarian and librarian for many years, provided impetus for a major

renovation project; and

WHEREAS, In January of 2000, the Cuba Circulating Library proudly reopened after the completion of a 10,000 square foot addition and total renovation of the original building; new meeting room facilities, a lift for handicap accessibility, new heating and air conditioning systems and a public computer area were among the improvements covered in the project; and

WHEREAS, The Cuba Circulating Library currently provides services to more than 4,500 residents living within the greater Cuba area; this vital institution, which began 150 years ago, has been steadfastly nurtured and sustained by succeeding generations to become what it is today; and

WHEREAS, The Cuba Circulating Library has been an invaluable resource for the residents of its community for more than a century; people come to the library to connect, discover and learn through story times, book group, and various programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Cuba Circulating Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated staff and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Cuba Circulating Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Cuba Circulating Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Cuba Circulating Library.