

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the Corning
Rotary Club

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; 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 Corning Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, The world's first service club, Rotary International, was founded on February 23, 1905, when Paul Harris, a native of Vermont, found himself a stranger in the city of Chicago; he conceived the idea of inviting three men of different vocations to join him weekly for fellowship and to discuss each other's problems and business; and

WHEREAS, Today, Rotary International has grown into an organization including over 1.2 million members in approximately 29,000 clubs across 163 countries; each club is made up of business and professional leaders who are dedicated to humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help to build peace and goodwill throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Sponsored by the Elmira Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Corning, New York, was chartered in 1921; its founding President was Frederick Carder, an English immigrant and glass artist who became interested in this organization for its promotion of world peace during a time when he was grieving the loss of his son in World War I; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Corning is in Rotary District No. 7120, which encompasses roughly 90 square miles across 11 counties, just south of Lake Ontario; and

WHEREAS, Meeting weekly at the Baron Steuben Hotel, the Rotary Club's initial success was the gradual growth of acquaintance among Corning businessmen through weekly meetings and community betterment projects; Carder credited the organization with breaking down the attitude of secrecy and independence among businessmen that prevailed at the time, changing it to an attitude of cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Beginning with just 25 men who signed the original charter, the Corning Rotary Club grew to more than 170 members in 80 years; the Baron Steuben Hotel and the Corning Hilton/Radisson have been its home since 1928, and women were admitted in 1989; presently there are 130 members; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with its motto of service above self, the Corning Rotary Club has steadfastly supported a diverse array of youth

programs, including Sea, Boy and Girl Scouts, a local Youth Center and Camp STAR, a summer camp for youth with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, this vital organization has sponsored Babe Ruth Baseball and Cinderella Softball for more than three decades, and continues to give tirelessly of its time and donations to several community institutions; and

WHEREAS, The Corning Rotary Club began its international service in 1964, with the hosting and sponsoring of exchange students; furthermore, its Annual International Evening has provided funds for countless outreach projects throughout the world, and since 1985, the club has contributed in excess of \$40,000 toward Polio Plus, a Rotary International initiative to eliminate polio in the world as well as the largest and most successful private undertaking by a non-governmental agency ever; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Corning Rotary Club is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated members, 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, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals and 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 100th Anniversary of the Corning Rotary Club; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Corning Rotary Club.