

BY: Senator AKSHAR

COMMEMORATING the 200th Anniversary of the Town of
Colesville, New York

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the distinguished histories of the 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 200th Anniversary of the Town of Colesville, in Broome, County, New York; and

WHEREAS, Robert Harpur was born in Ireland in 1733; during the Revolutionary War, he was a member of the convention that drew up New York State's first constitution; he served in the State Assembly for several years and was Deputy Secretary of State from 1790-1795; he surveyed much of New York in the 1780s and was awarded 15,360 acres of land of what became the Town of Colesville; and

WHEREAS, Robert Harpur built what is believed to be the first grist mill in the area; he also established Harpur College, known today as SUNY Binghamton; and

WHEREAS, Revolutionary War veteran Nathaniel Cole arrived in the area in 1795; he was a direct descendant of Mayflower Pilgrim, Stephan Hopkins; Nathaniel settled just south of present-day Harpursville and the site is still called Cole's Hill; and

WHEREAS, Nathaniel Cole and his son built a tavern in 1800 on the corner of what is now Colesville Road and Watrous Road; the Colesville Post Office was established at the tavern in 1806, and Nathaniel Cole, Sr. became the first postmaster; a schoolhouse and a church were also built later and this small settlement at the crossroads of Cole's Hill became the original Colesville; and

WHEREAS, When the township of Colesville was formed in 1821, it was named in honor of Nathaniel Cole, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, The first church, St. Luke's, was built in 1828; today, the building still stands and serves as a museum of local history; once a year, a church service is held; and

WHEREAS, Saint Luke's Academy was built in 1857, complete with a tower and a bell; at one time, it had 20 pupils enrolled; in 1890, the school closed, and the building was sold; in April of 1977, it burned to the ground; and

WHEREAS, The First Colesville Baptist Church was built in 1846 near the Riverview Cemetery; they later built a larger church at another location and the old church building is now Bethal Chapel; and

WHEREAS, The first Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1845; this church served for 75 years before a new church was built in 1920, which is still used today; and

WHEREAS, In 1814, the first schoolhouse was built in the Town of Colesville; the town had several one room school houses in its hamlets; Perch Pond schoolhouse is currently being restored, and the Doraville Schoolhouse, which was moved from its original location to the property next to the Town Hall, currently serves as a museum; and

WHEREAS, The hamlets that were part of the Town of Colesville included: Ouaquaga, New Ohio, Center Village, Doraville, Sanitaria Springs, Nineveh, Vallonia Springs, Unitaria, Tunnel, East End, Belden, North Colesville, and West Colesville; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon Church, lived in the Town of Colesville when he was a young man before he moved west; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Hart, the BC cartoonist, was a long-time resident of Nineveh until his death; and

WHEREAS, Remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Town of Colesville continues its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens, ensuring a positive business, institutional and educational climate, and providing all essential services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Colesville, New York, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the communities of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Town of Colesville, New York.