

BY: Senator ORTT

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
Historic Palace Theatre in the City of Lockport, New
York, on May 1, 2021

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those cultural institutions and organizations whose commitment to promoting the richness and diversity of the arts and entertainment world has contributed to the strength, vitality, and cultural enrichment of their communities and the great 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 Historic Palace Theatre in the City of Lockport, New York, on Saturday, May 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Palace Theatre is owned and operated by Historic Palace Theatre Inc., a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to maintaining the historic and architectural integrity of this Western New York landmark while providing a venue for the performing arts and a center for arts education; and

WHEREAS, Built not for the aristocracy, but for all the people, construction of the Palace Theatre began 100 years ago, in 1921; and

WHEREAS, The Palace Theatre opened its doors for the first time on July 18, 1925, under Lock City Theatre Company President A. Edmund Lee, successfully extending Broadway into Lockport, New York, and to the people of Niagara; and

WHEREAS, With a goal to bring this magnificent building back to its 1920s glory, renovations on the Historic Palace Theatre entitled, "Act II: A Grand Restoration," began in 2018, with the outer lobby, box office and will-call area, as well as the restoration of all interior paint and plaster to prepare for further decorative painting; and

WHEREAS, Phase two of the theatre's makeover focused on the inner lobby, concession stand, bar and merchandise area, and in restoring the impressive murals and intricate designs within the auditorium; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, backstage rigging upgrades were made to enhance production quality and bring new shows to the stage; new seats were added to beautify the theater and improve audience comfort, the orchestra pit was expanded, and upgrades were made to theatrical and interior lighting, as well as to both the sound and HVAC systems; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous direction of Executive Director Christopher Parada, this extraordinary cultural institution serves as the premier entertainment center in Western New York, the hub of Lockport, and a true beacon for the arts which are so vital to the

community and the lives of its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, A vibrant arts community encourages collaboration, instills local pride, draws people together, and is essential to a community's vitality; since its inception, the Palace Theatre has greatly contributed to the richness of New York's cultural palette and remains steadfastly dedicated to ensuring this gem remains in all its glory for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, The arts are the building blocks of civilization; they are central to human expression; they enlighten us and inspire the imagination; educational institutions, individuals, and organizations which further such worthy purposes richly merit the recognition and appreciation of this Legislative Body and the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, As the Historic Palace Theatre in the City of Lockport looks back with great pride to its beginnings, viewing, with just satisfaction, its successful evolution, it renews both its dedication to supporting artistic excellence, and its commitment to the community it has been built within beginning in 1921 and has served since 1925, expressing its appreciation to all those who have helped to sustain and enhance it over the years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Historic Palace Theatre in the City of Lockport, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Christopher Parada, Executive Director, Palace Theatre, Lockport, New York.