

BY: M. of A. Blankenbush

COMMEMORATING the 75th Anniversary of White's Farm Supply, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and applaud the leaders of commerce and industry whose accomplishments contribute to the economic health and prosperity of the communities of the State of New York and to the quality of life of its people; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of White's Farm Supply, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, White's Farm Supply, Inc. is a full-service Case IH, New Holland and Kubota dealer selling new and used tractors, forage harvesters and farm equipment with locations in Canastota, Franklin, Lowville, Schaghticoke and Waterville, New York; and

WHEREAS, When Willard and Nettie White returned to Central New York at the end of World War II, it was not long before they saw an opportunity to live the American dream; and

WHEREAS, Willard White was born and raised in the Verona, New York area, which prompted his return to his family farm; Nettie was a farm girl from Shandro, Alberta, Canada; together, they established the business in 1946 as the Oneida Valley Garage, pumping gas and repairing automobiles and farm machinery; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, as the business grew, the Whites hired Roger Gerwig, a mechanic who could fix anything; after 48 years of dedicated service, Roger retired from White's Farm Supply, but not before experiencing the evolution of White's Farm Supply, and the Agricultural and Lawn & Garden Industry; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, International Harvester Company gained a dealer in White's Farm Supply and that relationship has endured through both companies' changes, as White's continues to sell and service the Case-IH brand; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, White's Farm Supply became a distributor of Nicholson Hay tedders; they were imported from England and sold all over New England and required deliveries and an extensive parts supply and support; and

WHEREAS, By the early 1960s, things were moving quite fast for the business and Gehl, a company well-known for their forage equipment, contracted with White's Farm Supply for warehousing of their parts distribution throughout the Northeast; by the mid-1960s, the new warehouse building was built to handle the growth, as it was still growing with White's Farm Supply taking on distribution and sales of Van Dusen, Silo-matic and Brillion; this time was also the start of a new

direction with the sales of the Cub Cadet; and

WHEREAS, Sales in the agricultural area were growing and in 1972, the Waterville store opened with five employees, and has since tripled in size; and

WHEREAS, Growth was continuous and the equipment needs of the farmer were changing; more opportunities to serve the customers came when the Sperry-New Holland brand of hay and forage equipment was taken on, and the same tractor brand was introduced; White's Farm Supply was the first dealer in New York for Martin Manufacturing, a company that was later purchased by Gehl, that pioneered a V-style spreader; and

WHEREAS, White's Farm Supply's product line offering branched into a new area with cow stalls and gates; the business carries an extensive inventory of barn and farm lot needs with strong relationships with manufacturers Paul B. Zimmerman, Inc. and J. Houle & Fils, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, With the start of the 1980s, a new shop, parts department, and offices were added to the Canastota store; then came the opportunity to acquire a third building and in 1986, the Lowville store opened its doors for business; and

WHEREAS, Meyers Manufacturing was added to the equipment offering line up in 1986 and White's Farm Supply was awarded their top dealer award for 2005; and

WHEREAS, In addition, White's Farm Supply became the first dealer for the Ferris mowers, a local manufacturer of innovative lawn care products for the homeowner and the commercial mower specialist; and

WHEREAS, Another strong relationship with a top industry leader, Kubota, has propelled White's Farm Supply through the next decade in sales of quality lawn and garden equipment, commercial mowers, and estate and farm tractors; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, the employees of all three White's Farm Supply stores presented Willard and Nettie White with a special plaque and stone marker in recognition and appreciation to them as founders; and

WHEREAS, That same year, Willard and Nettie White decided to retire; with them throughout have been their five children, Dale, Patricia, Arthur, Arlene and Douglas, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of their lives and rejoice in their achievements; the tradition of service to the Agricultural and Lawn & Garden industries continues with Dale, Doug, and Art leading the company and responding to the needs of their customers and new demands of the market; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, a fourth location was added in Franklin, New York, to serve the Southern Tier, and in 2016, a fifth location was added in Schaghticoke, New York to serve the Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, As the company moves into the 21st Century, today White's Farm Supply is proud to employ over 90 New Yorkers and has a cumulative total of well over 600 years of experience within its staff; and

WHEREAS, White's Farm Supply is proud to have been the recipient of numerous awards from many of the companies it represents for tops honors in sales, as well as the quality of the sales and service from lawn mowers to the largest of farm machinery, tractors and implements; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business and its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of White's Farm Supply, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to White's Farm Supply, Inc.