

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
Carpenter House on May 13, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to support the preservation and commemoration of historical landmarks which express and preserve the social and cultural origins of this 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 100th Anniversary of the Carpenter House, to be celebrated at the Grace's Tea event on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at the Rome Art and Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Built in 1923, the Carpenter House was the home of Arthur F. and Grace Carpenter, prominent citizens and one of the most successful industrialists of Rome, New York; today, visitors from both far and near marvel at the English Tudor styled home's beauty, its attention to detail, and its extensive grounds full of expansive lawns and home to exquisitely designed gardens; and

WHEREAS, The main building achieves its singularity through many carefully designed architectural innovations; the carefully placed chimneys were purposefully made crooked, and every single brick in its exterior was a "reject", and their imperfection, when massed, provides the building with its color and texture; and

WHEREAS, The leaded diamond-paned windows are in style of English manor houses of the Elizabethan Era, and the relief fireplaces, ceilings, and carvings over the oak stairs are richly ornamented with symbols that represent English crests and coats of arms, such as the greyhound, which can be spotted secretly throughout the home in special details; and

WHEREAS, After the construction of the house was completed, Arthur F. and Grace Carpenter hired the world-famous art collector, Joseph Duveen, to appropriately furnish its interior which included priceless court cupboards, 17th Century chairs, wall hangings, floor coverings and other antique furnishings and art treasures from New York; and

WHEREAS, Surrounding the Carpenter home were well-planned gardens and lawns where Grace Carpenter loved to throw parties for the local children; she was also a talented artist and wrote two small books, **Friends of the Road** and **The Besieging Spirit**; and

WHEREAS, After the deaths of Arthur F. and Grace Carpenter, the City of Rome bought the property at a reasonable sum, which was requested by Grace, in 1966, for the purpose of housing the Rome Art and Community Center (RACC); and

WHEREAS, RACC is Rome's only multi-arts facility, offering both cultural and community programming at little or no cost to the public; this exceptional art center welcomes almost 5,000 visitors annually, including visitors from all over the United States; and

WHEREAS, Highly committed to making programming accessible to all, regardless of age, race, economic status or physical ability, this center continues to be a true asset to its community and in addition, is also a home away from home for hundreds of artists each year, whether they exhibit their engaging works in the galleries or are featured performers; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Carpenter House's rich history and enduring contribution to the heritage of the State of New York, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to join in the celebration of its 100th Anniversary so that present and future generations may come to appreciate the unique significance which its history plays in the progression of our State and Nation's evolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Carpenter House on May 13, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jason Tockey, Executive Director, Rome Art and Community Center.