

BY: Senator OBERACKER

COMMEMORATING the 125th Anniversary of the William
B. Ogden Free Library of Walton, New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary organizations whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the William B. Ogden Free Library of Walton, New York, to be celebrated at a gala on Saturday, January 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, William B. Ogden was born in Walton, New York in 1805, and worked as a postmaster; he later traveled west and helped establish the city of Chicago, Illinois, where he served as the city's first mayor; and

WHEREAS, William B. Ogden had organized to grant money to his hometown upon the occasion of his death; a trustee of the inheritance, William Wheeler, traveled to Walton to make an informed decision on the best way to utilize these funds, and the community suggested that the inheritance be used to build a library; and

WHEREAS, The library had begun construction in 1896, and was completed in the following year, 1897; it was designed by the firm Morris and Walker of New York City, and was built by Alexander Carman of Binghamton out of native bluestone from the quarries on Marvin Hollow and on Shepard Hill; the library officially opened its doors on January 29, 1899; and

WHEREAS, The William B. Ogden Free Library has been an invaluable resource for residents of Walton for 125 years; people come to the library to connect, discover, study, participate in story times, attend book groups, and participate in various programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the William B. Ogden Free Library is to enrich the literary and cultural lives of its community members, and to preserve the integrity of the historic structure of the library; and

WHEREAS, The success of the William B. Ogden Free Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported the development of the library over the years; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the William B. Ogden Free Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural, and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the William B. Ogden Free Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the William B. Ogden Free Library of Walton, New York.