

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMEMORATING the 75th Anniversary of the Watkins
Glen Area Chamber of Commerce

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 75th Anniversary of the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, March 2, 2024, to be celebrated at a Diamond Gala at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding 75 years ago, the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce has spoken to the needs of the business community, creatively promoting and advocating for business in the community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its role as the Chamber of Commerce for Watkins Glen and Schuyler County area, it is also the Tourism Promotion Agent, operating two visitor centers in Watkins Glen that welcome more than 100,000 visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, The Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce has over 400 members, with many businesses fueling tourism in the area; the international auto racing facility and the Finger Lakes wine industry being perhaps the most notable economic engines in the region; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1940s, Cameron Argetsinger, a law student at Cornell University, proposed an amateur road race, the Watkins Glen Grand Prix, and reached out to the then newly-formed Watkins Glen Area Chamber with the idea of a road race in Watkins Glen to bring tourists to the area; this eventually led to Watkins Glen International, which now hosts NASCAR, and an array of other motorsports competitions; and

WHEREAS, As it honors its history, the Chamber looks to the future with a vision of advancing the Watkins Glen area as a premier destination that intertwines its unique scenic beauty with economic diversity and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce may take just pride in its purposeful

growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the business, cultural, and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce.