

BY: Senator MURRAY

COMMENDING the Yaphank Historical Society upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary on May 18, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational, and recreational institutions; these institutions give positive definition to the profile and disposition of the communities of the State of New York and profoundly strengthen our society with their commitment; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Yaphank Historical Society in the Town of Brookhaven, New York, in Suffolk County, upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary to be celebrated by a series of monthly events and culminating with its Anniversary Party on Saturday, August 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1974, the Yaphank Historical Society has been a dedicated organization; its mission is to collect, interpret, and preserve the rich history of the Hamlet of Yaphank and its surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, Seeing a need to preserve this rich heritage, the Yaphank Historical Society's founding members acquired the mission of encouraging and supporting the preservation of historical buildings and landmarks, as well as housing and preserving extensive special archival exhibits and library collections; and

WHEREAS, The Yaphank Historical Society was founded under the leadership of its first President, Eugene T. Dooley, who helped advocate for and establish an official designation for the Yaphank Historic District; and

WHEREAS, The Yaphank Historical Society maintains and manages four historic houses, three of which are now on the National Register of Historic Places, and it provides ongoing stewardship for several small historic burial grounds and the Carmans River Nature Trail & Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, One of the historic houses the Society maintains and manages is the Swezey-Avey House which is designated as a Brookhaven Town Historic Landmark and serves as the Headquarters for the Yaphank Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, The Yaphank Historical Society educates the public, working with local schools and other community organizations to teach about Yaphank's historic beginnings as an early American culture of sawmills and gristmills; and

WHEREAS, The preservation efforts of the Yaphank Historical Society include making publicly available archives and library collections of the Yaphank Hamlet area for study and research and offering tours of historic period homes from the 18th and 19th centuries; and

WHEREAS, The series of special events planned for the community, which will culminate with the Anniversary Party in August of 2024, showcases the rich history of the Hamlet of Yaphank and demonstrates the commitment of the members of the Yaphank Historical Society to ensure that this rich history will be passed on to the next generation; and

WHEREAS, For the past 50 years, the Yaphank Historical Society has allowed citizens to effectively learn about their local history and to help the public appreciate and enjoy the Yaphank Historic District with all its natural and cultural heritage; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Yaphank Historical Society upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary on May 18, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Yaphank Historical Society.