

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the Central
Steuben Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those organizations which substantially contribute to the economic vitality of their communities and the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Formerly known as the Bath Chamber of Commerce, the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce was issued a charter of incorporation on April 30, 1924; on May 2, 1924, the Board of Directors were finalized and the first chamber officers were established on the third floor of the Castrilli Building; and

WHEREAS, Engaging the community, the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce held events like a fair and carnival, participated in activities such as the Annual Farmer's Picnic on the Steuben County Fairgrounds, launched Dollar Day promotions, concerts, and formed an Automobile Camp Site near Lake Salubria; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1900s, the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce joined the United States Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, A driving force in community initiatives, the number of members and the treasury increased significantly throughout the years; the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce helps merchants to comply with regulations, as seen when the Chamber helped businesses during the passage of the National Recovery Act (NRA) and fought to keep the Temporary Relief Administration transient relief division in the area; and

WHEREAS, The Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce has aided in flood control measures on the Conhocton River, the VA hospital dedication, and replaced antiquated bridges; also, the Chamber was instrumental in bringing five new industries to employ residents: Steuben Silk Mills, Barnes Retinning Company, Bath Creamery Company, Lyntex Paper Products, and Lane Pipe Corporation; and

WHEREAS, During times of war, the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce supported the effort by sending representatives to campaign, working with the Red Cross, and arranging women to train at Mercury Aircraft; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950's, the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce advocated for community enhancing projects such as a municipal parking

lot, decorations for holidays, and industrial expansion in the Bath Village; in the 1960's, the Chamber built a Tourist Booth in the community and "Welcome to Bath" signs; and

WHEREAS, In the next coming decades, the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce became the primary sponsor for many anticipated events in the community like the Dairy Festival and facilitated more events for recreation in the Bath community, including the Ladder Day Sale, Halloween window decorating contests and Grape Harvest Days, sweetheart contests for the Heart Fund, George Washington's Birthday sale days, Music in the Park, Oktoberfest, and Christmas in July; and

WHEREAS, For the past century, this vital organization has served to encourage and support new businesses and professional opportunities, facilitate new partnerships, and promote the growth of current businesses in the community; and

WHEREAS, The Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce is comprised of members of the community and local business leaders working together to support economic growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 100-year history, the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce is in direct correlation to the efforts of its Board of Directors, officers, and its members, 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, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional organization and its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident it will continue to enjoy the sparkling success it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce.