

BY: M. of A. Woerner

COMMEMORATING the Bicentennial Anniversary of the opening of the Champlain Canal

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize events of historical significance which have had a profound effect on the development of our great Empire State and our Nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the Bicentennial Anniversary of the opening of the Champlain Canal; and

WHEREAS, The Champlain Canal is a historically significant waterway advocated for by General Philip Schuyler, a general in the American Revolution and prominent New York statesman; as president of the Western and Northern Inland Lock Company, he reported the results of his company's preliminary surveys to the New York State Legislature and suggested the commercial value a canal system would create; and

WHEREAS, The construction of the Champlain Canal began in 1817, the same time as the construction of the Erie Canal; many of the workers who helped build the Champlain and Erie canals were Irish immigrants; and

WHEREAS, The Fort Edward to Lake Champlain section of the canal was opened in 1819, with the main section of the canal, which connects the Hudson River to Lake Champlain, opening for navigation on September 10, 1823, the same day as the larger Erie Canal to which it is connected in Waterford, New York; and

WHEREAS, During this time, the Champlain Canal also connected the Chambly Canal in Quebec, Canada to the Saint Lawrence River, and thereafter to the North Atlantic Ocean; as canals developed in America, settlers were attracted to nearby communities because of the canals' ability to provide access to markets; and

WHEREAS, The completion of the Champlain Canal created a physical and commercial connection between Saratoga (Schuylerville) and the U.S. Atlantic coast, as well as the nation's Midwest and West, which had impacts far beyond its intended effects; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the canal formed the first truly effective means of inland interstate commerce, directly enabling the growth of Schuylerville, Midwestern agriculture, and the emergence of New York City and New York State as national and international economic powers; and

WHEREAS, A part of the New York State Canal System, this extraordinary canal can best be described as a path through history; prior to our country's independence, British, French and Americans all traveled north and south through this stretch of the region; in

addition, it was instrumental in the establishment of Forts Ticonderoga and Edward; and

WHEREAS, Today, stretching 64 miles between the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, the Champlain Canal stands as one of the earliest and most significant public works projects in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize those distinct unique waterways throughout the State of New York such as the Champlain Canal which provide transportation opportunities for its residents and have become a part of the history of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Bicentennial Anniversary of the opening of the Champlain Canal; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York State Canal Corporation.