

Assembly Resolution No. 2082

BY: M. of A. Simpson

COMMEMORATING the Centennial Anniversary of the
Granville Rotary Club on May 9, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the Granville Rotary Club on Thursday, May 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Rotary International is one of the largest service organizations in the world, with a mission to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders; the non-political and non-religious organization has 46,000-plus member clubs that work together to promote peace, fight illiteracy and poverty, help people get access to clean water and sanitation, fight disease, and protect Earth and its resources; and

WHEREAS, Established 100 years ago, the Granville Rotary Club was formed and organized in 1924 and the charter from Rotary International was presented to the Club's first President, William J. Norton, by District Governor Raymond J. Knoepfel; and

WHEREAS, Historically devoted to serving the community through their endeavors, the members of the Granville Rotary Club led the drive for the construction of the present Granville High School building in 1929; through the efforts of the Club, the need for a new hospital was stressed and fund raising was carried out, resulting in the construction of the Emma Laing Stevens Hospital; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, the Granville Rotary Club sponsored war bond drives as well as drives for scrap-metal and for clothing to ship overseas; in 1973, the Club and its members personally fully supported the construction of the new regional hospital in North Granville, as well as the underwriting of a new room and furnishings in the hospital; and

WHEREAS, Supporting other local organizations, the Granville Rotary Club has contributed to the efforts of both the Slate Valley Museum and the Pember Library & Museum; and

WHEREAS, Prioritizing fostering youth activities, the Granville Rotary Club organized and sponsored Boy Scout Troop 44 in 1938 and the formation of the Granville Youth Commission, the first Youth Commission in New York State; the Youth Commission sponsored a swimming program at Lake St. Catherine where children of all ages were taught to swim and

were able to learn life saving techniques; in partnership with the Lions Club, the Granville Rotary Club established a playground at the Little

League Field and for many years, the Club sponsored a Rotary Little League baseball team and also arranged high school track meets; and

WHEREAS, Instrumental in the creation of recreational activities for the community, the Granville Rotary Club helped to construct a community ice rink and has worked to maintain the rink for many years; in addition, the Club set up a ski program where students were transported by bus to the Pico Ski Area and learned how to ski and a summer school playground was arranged for students; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to youth of all ages, the Granville Rotary Club recognizes a high school senior once a month as Student of the Month to encourage scholastic achievement; the Club awards scholarships that are given to two graduating seniors based on their service to the school and community and also each fall, the Club provides student dictionaries for all third graders at the Granville Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Helping students prepare for their future, the members of the Granville Rotary Club, as well as former Rotarians and other civic-minded adults, role play interviewers, allowing students to improve their interviewing skills, in preparation for college or job interviews; and

WHEREAS, For many years, in order to encourage good sportsmanship, the Granville and Whitehall Rotary Clubs jointly sponsored annual football banquets held a few weeks after the last game of the season; during this event, trophies were awarded to outstanding players, and the ceremony helped lessen tensions between the players and the communities; further supporting youth athletics for Granville High School, the Club aided the purchase of a modern electric scoreboard for the football field, dedicated in memory of Sam Eppolito, the football coach at Granville High School for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, To raise funds and give the citizens of Granville the opportunity to shop at reduced prices, the Granville Rotary Club has sponsored an annual flea market for many years; another important annual Granville Rotary Club project is the Warm the Children fundraising spaghetti dinner, from which proceeds are used to purchase warm winter clothing for children in need; and

WHEREAS, Other projects facilitated by the Granville Rotary Club are Trivia Night, where many teams from the surrounding areas compete in a trivia contest; and a food booth at the long running annual Chamber of Commerce antique car show; and

WHEREAS, Paying tribute to a Rotary International priority, the Granville Rotary Club has been actively involved in the work to eradicate polio; the Club has raised substantial funds for mass immunizations; and

WHEREAS, Through the leadership and efforts of former Rotarian Steve Williams, the Granville Rotary Club provided funds over a period of time

for various projects in Bangladesh, including cataract removal and IOL implants; and for equipment for a second operating theatre in the specialized ENT hospital at Mahakhali, Dhaka; funds were also used to train midwives in techniques for life saving procedures for newborn babies at the Kumudin Hospital; additionally, the Club was further involved with the Rotary Foundation to create Shelter Boxes for

Indonesia and Haiti and aided in the distribution of pure water in Danli, Honduras; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Granville Rotary Club is in direct correlation to the efforts of its President, Daniel Yauger; Secretary, David O'Brien; Treasurer, Roger Forando; and dedicated 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 the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the Granville Rotary Club on May 9, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Granville Rotary Club.