

Assembly Resolution No. 981

BY: M. of A. Rajkumar

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
Woodhaven Library on January 7, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize cultural institutions that contribute to the rich history and culture of our Great 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 Woodhaven Library, celebrated on Sunday, January 7, 2024; and

WHEREAS, The Woodhaven Library in Queens, New York, is a beloved community institution that has served the residents of Woodhaven and surrounding neighborhoods for a century; and

WHEREAS, The library has played an indispensable role in promoting literacy, knowledge, and lifelong learning, instilling a love of reading and empowering residents to make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, The Woodhaven Library has been a hub for diverse educational, cultural, and recreational activities, offering crucial resources, programs, and services that have brought people from different backgrounds together; and

WHEREAS, The library has hosted its own prekindergarten program, fostering new generations of scholars; and

WHEREAS, Through the assistance offered by Woodhaven Library, children have excelled in school, immigrants have learned English, job seekers have found their dream careers, and people of all ages have gained computer literacy; and

WHEREAS, Plans for the Woodhaven Library began in 1922, when the Queens Public Library determined that the burgeoning community of Woodhaven needed a larger library in order to meet demand; and

WHEREAS, Initially told there were insufficient funds for a new library, Woodhaven residents diligently campaigned until they secured funding from the City of New York and the Queens Public Library's endowment from Andrew Carnegie-a testament to the dedication of Woodhaven residents and their love for their neighborhood that continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Construction of the Woodhaven Library began with the community coming together for a cornerstone laying ceremony on July 7, 1923, and the Woodhaven Library opened its doors on January 7, 1924 at 3:00 P.M.; and

WHEREAS, The Woodhaven Library is truly a homegrown institution: its

architect, Robert F. Schirmer, and builder, Henry Berau of Berau Fraser, were both Woodhaven residents; and

WHEREAS, The 100th Anniversary of the Woodhaven Library presents an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the library's rich history, highlight its outstanding contributions to the community, and inspire future generations to continue the legacy; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Woodhaven Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Woodhaven Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Woodhaven Library, the President of the Queens Public Library, and various institutions in Woodhaven.