Assembly Resolution No. 1372

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

COMMEMORATING the 110th Anniversary of the Annexation of North Utica

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate historic events of significance which have contributed to the development, growth, and prosperity of the communities 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 110th Anniversary of the Annexation of North Utica, an event of enduring importance to the City of Utica and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, The history of North Utica's annexation is marked by two pivotal events which shaped the community's trajectory and development; and

WHEREAS, The first annexation, occurring in 1891, involved approximately 249 acres of land from the Town of Deerfield, situated just north of the New York Central Railroad tracks; this action was undertaken primarily to facilitate the rerouting and straightening of the Mohawk River in order to mitigate severe and recurring spring flooding, which had long impacted residents, infrastructure, and railroad operations; and

WHEREAS, This ambitious and costly undertaking proved beneficial not only to the City of Utica, but also to surrounding communities and the railroad system, ensuring improved safety, economic stability, and continued service in the region; and

WHEREAS, The second and most significant annexation occurred in 1916, encompassing nearly 4,100 acres, or approximately four square miles, of land from the Town of Deerfield, following extensive public discourse and deliberation regarding its merits and consequences; and

WHEREAS, A principal factor motivating this annexation was the financial burden associated with infrastructure improvements necessitated by the construction of the New York State Barge Canal, begun in 1905 and completed in 1918, including the costly development of major bridges over what are now Leland Avenue and North Genesee Street; and

WHEREAS, The incorporation of this territory into the City of Utica enabled the provision of essential municipal services to residents within the annexed area, including electric lighting, police and fire protection, and access to city schools, thereby enhancing quality of life and civic participation; and

WHEREAS, While the annexation represented a transition for the Town

of Deerfield, which relinquished land, institutions, and a diverse working population of skilled tradespeople and professionals, it ultimately contributed to the broader regional growth and modernization; and

WHEREAS, Over the ensuing decades, North Utica has evolved from its modest origins into a vibrant and dynamic district, now recognized as the largest in the City of Utica, featuring residential neighborhoods, educational institutions, commercial centers, and a wide array of businesses and community resources; and

WHEREAS, Today, North Utica serves as an economic and cultural hub, contributing significantly to the local tax base, providing employment opportunities, and acting as a gateway to the Adirondack region for countless visitors traveling through the area; and

WHEREAS, The legacy of the annexation endures as a testament to foresight, cooperation, and the enduring resilience of the community, whose development has far exceeded the expectations of its early civic leaders; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to recognize this milestone and to honor the history, growth, and contributions of North Utica and its residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 110th Anniversary of the Annexation of North Utica, and to recognize the significance of this historic event in shaping the community and region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to representatives of the North Utica community in recognition of this auspicious occasion.