

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Hendershott-Manness Post 374, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Arcade, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and support the purposeful cause of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), recognizing its long and sustained commitment to the principles of democracy and freedom so revered by this State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1899 by veterans of the Spanish American War, returning first from Cuba and later from the Philippines, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has, for more than 100 years, been dedicated to serving America's veterans and their families; to preserving freedom, democracy, and the American way of life; and to maintaining a strong national defense; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with its time-honored traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize the just purpose and good works of Hendershott-Manness Post 374, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Arcade, New York, upon the occasion of its 75th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Founded on July 24, 1938, Hendershott-Manness Post 374 will celebrate its 75th Anniversary with musical events on Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27, 2013, a gala Anniversary Dinner on July 27, and an Open House on July 28; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-four men, mostly veterans of World War I, were the charter members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post that was formed in Arcade on July 24, 1938; the new post was assigned the number 374 and was named for Corporal William Hendershott and Private Arthur Manness, both of whom died of pneumonia in France shortly before the Armistice was signed in 1918 at the end of World War I; and

WHEREAS, Membership grew slowly during the first several years, but the end of World War II in 1945 led to a major increase in membership; another smaller increase occurred after the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Post 374 is privileged, in 2013, to still have several members who served in one of those two wars; additional members joined after the Vietnam War and still others have joined as a result of overseas military service since 1990; and

WHEREAS, The post created a Building Fund in 1950 with the goal of purchasing a building site and constructing a post home; the post was already raising money for a variety of community causes, and fundraising activities increased dramatically with this new goal in mind; and

WHEREAS, A parcel of land on West Main Street in Arcade was purchased in 1953 and ground was broken on the site on May 4, 1955; the new post home was occupied the following February and was dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 1956; since then, the building has been expanded and serves as a meeting place for the post, a social center for veterans, and as a popular restaurant and event center for the public; and

WHEREAS, The national Veterans of Foreign Wars began welcoming women to become members in 1978; the late Margaret Hopkins, who had served as a nurse in the Pacific Theater during World War II, was the first woman in New York State to become a VFW member when she became a member of Post 374 in September 1978; and

WHEREAS, The post and its auxiliary have encouraged students at Pioneer Central High School to participate in the VFW Voice of Democracy competition since 1990; since then, 20 local winners have gone on to win at the district level, and three have won at the state level; the local Voice of Democracy winner is traditionally invited to be the featured speaker at the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Post 374's home; and

WHEREAS, Post 374 proudly conducts Memorial Day Ceremonies at multiple locations in the area and places flags on the graves of many local veterans; the members also conduct a Veterans Day service at the post

home each November and provide an honor guard for military funerals; and
WHEREAS, The annual Easter Egg Hunt for local children is just one of the many other examples of community service activities sponsored by the post; and

WHEREAS, Post 374 is proud to have several members who have held offices at the District and State levels over the past years, and the post has always supported the mission of the national Veterans of Foreign Wars to advocate on behalf of veterans and to provide support for military personnel serving on active duty; and

WHEREAS, Hendershott-Manness Post 374, Veterans of Foreign Wars has faithfully served the Arcade community and its veterans over the past 75 years, dedicating its purpose to the preservation of the values and principles of the VFW and this great republic; and

WHEREAS, Post 374 initiates many activities on behalf of the community, its veterans and the VFW's national causes; ever striving to support educational needs, as well as social and patriotic values, while maintaining an integral role in community affairs of concern to veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, The 75th Anniversary of the founding of Hendershott-Manness Post 374 Veterans of Foreign Wars is a time to pause and reflect on the events it conducts in reverent tribute to the men and women who served their country in defense of its ideals of democracy and freedom, on the many contributions rendered to community organizations and educational programs, and on its continuing efforts to serve veterans and the Arcade community; and

WHEREAS, Hendershott-Manness Post 374 is a noble post, accomplishing its mission and performing its good deeds in a spirit of comradeship true to the highest traditions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mindful of its proud and honored history, Hendershott-Manness Post 374 may celebrate with just pride and true honor, its 75th Anniversary of service to its community and the needs and causes of veterans across New York State and the nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the devoted leadership of Post 374's Commanders, past and present, and the absolute commitment of its many proud members, noting the role played by this exceptional organization and recognizing the significance of the contributions and sacrifices of its membership; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to
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commend the Hendershott-Manness Post 374 upon the occasion of the celebration of its 75th Anniversary, fully confident that the quality and character of life in the Empire State remains richly endowed and resolutely defended through such organizations of just cause and good purpose; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Hendershott-Manness Post 374.