

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Saratoga Racetrack on July 19, 2013 and throughout the length of the racing season in Saratoga Springs, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enhanced by the availability of extraordinary recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Horseracing has a rich cultural history celebrated around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Saratoga Race Course, to be celebrated from May through September 2013; and

WHEREAS, On August 3, 1863, John Hunter and William R. Travers created a joint venture to establish the Saratoga Race Course, marking a new era of entertainment for the City of Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County and the State of New York, attracting the masses to help develop a new and exciting culture of gaming; and

WHEREAS, The Saratoga Race Course is the oldest continually operating Thoroughbred race course and among the oldest organized sporting venues in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Patrons of the Saratoga Race Course are privileged to be presented a close-up view of competing horses as they are led from the paddock to the historic race course, a path that stretches from the stables and through the picnic grounds; and

WHEREAS, The Saratoga Race Course draws tourists from around the world, entertaining an average of 30,000 visitors per day throughout the racing season and roughly 1,000,000 visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, The Saratoga Race Course is undoubtedly an extraordinary facility to surround one's self with loved ones, to take pleasure in an afternoon of laughter, delicious food, music, drink and the thrill of the race; and

WHEREAS, Sports Illustrated recognized the Saratoga Race Course as one of the Top Ten sporting venues in the world, most notably for the Travers Stakes, which was first held in 1864, and named after president of the old Saratoga Racing Association, William R. Travers; and

WHEREAS, Operated by the New York Racing Association, the not-for-profit corporation operates the three largest Thoroughbred horse racing tracks in the State of New York, providing an exciting environment and friendly, family oriented atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, The Saratoga Race Course has a total economic impact in the region of \$200,000,000 throughout Saratoga County and the surrounding communities, adding more than 2,500 jobs to Saratoga Springs and the surrounding region and upwards of 17,000 jobs in related and supporting fields each season; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of celebrated recreational institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this State that it strives to serve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Saratoga Race Course of Saratoga Springs, New York, to be celebrated on opening day, July 19, 2013, and throughout the duration of the season, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the gratitude for the enhancement to the State of New York that the Saratoga Race Course has provided; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York Racing Association.