

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 203rd Anniversary of Putnam County

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize the distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State, and to celebrate the people and places which make these communities strong; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 203rd Anniversary of Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County was formed on June 12, 1812, from Dutchess County and is named for Israel Putnam, a hero in the French and Indian War and a General in the American Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, Located in the lower Hudson River Valley, Putnam County includes Kent, Philipstown, Putnam Valley, Carmel, Southeast and Patterson; and

WHEREAS, Due to the increasing population of the Southern Precinct of Dutchess County and the great distance of its communities from its county seat, Poughkeepsie, Putnam was split from Dutchess and created its own county; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Putnam was able to function as a separate county because of the easy transportation provided by the Hudson River; problems arose when the river froze in the winter, and subsequently, the Philipstown Turnpike was established in 1815 as a toll road from Cold Spring to Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Transportation improved again with the advent of the railroad, namely the Harlem Line, which was built in the 1840s, connecting Putnam by rail to New York City; during this time, there were four stations on the Harlem Line in Putnam County: Brewster, Dykemans, Towners and Patterson; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County played an integral role in the Civil War; one third of the county's men between the ages of 15 and 55 served in the military at the time of the war; and

WHEREAS, By the 20th Century, improved roads brought vacationers from New York City, which led to the creation of the Taconic State Parkway during the Great Depression; this brought more vacationers, which were attracted to the scenic land and the inexpensive hotels, inns and summer homes; Putnam County's population doubled during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, After the Second World War, Putnam County became an exurb of New York City; rapid development evolved into a bedroom community; however, the protection of Putnam County's reservoirs inherently limited development, as much of the land in the county is close to wetlands or reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, During the last half century, Putnam County has ceased to be a rural area and became part of the New York City outer suburbs; returning veterans and many workers in New York City and lower Westchester County found one could live year-round in Putnam and commute to work on excellent roads and rail connections; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Putnam County offers less expensive housing, good schools, and a safe environment; new year-round housing developments have sprang up throughout the county, and the rapid conversion of summer houses to year-round use has provided affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Of historic origin, and remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, Putnam County continues to provide the quintessential quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Putnam County have a bright outlook for the future of their community, which remains a beautiful place in which to live, work and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Putnam County's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited county upon the occasion of its 203rd Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 203rd Anniversary of Putnam County, and to enthusiastically salute its residents as they celebrate this auspicious occasion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Putnam County.