

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMEMORATING the 200th Anniversary of the Village
of Burdett, New York

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great Empire 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 200th Anniversary of the Village of Burdett, New York, to be recognized with a Bicentennial Celebration along Main Street on Saturday, June 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event will kick-off a year-long celebration and will include more than a dozen arts and crafts vendors, a pie eating contest, children's activities, Cornhole games, and live music by Jamie Potter, Erich Asperschlager, Scott Adams, Brett Beardsley and Due South; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, there will be historic and artistic displays, narrated bus tours, along with a presentation on the history of the Burdett Volunteer Fire Department followed by its free community dinner and fireworks; copies of the 140-page book, **Historic Burdett Celebrates 200 Years**, will also be available for purchase; and

WHEREAS, The Village of Burdett is located in Schuyler County within the Town of Hector on the east side of Seneca Lake along State Route 79, and is currently home to approximately 350 residents and several businesses; and

WHEREAS, Two hundred years ago, Burdett was a pioneer town of small cabins and rudimentary homesteads; at the end of the Revolutionary War, the Town of Hector, including what would become Burdett, was declared Military Bounty Lands; and

WHEREAS, The first settlers found the mighty Hector Falls Creek and used its power to generate a variety of mills; from woolen mills, to grist mills, to sawmills and a shingle factory, this little town was a mill town and at the very crossroads of commerce and industry in the early part of the 19th Century; and

WHEREAS, In 1819, the U.S. Postal Service declared this area, located on major New York State turnpikes and with deep waterway access as its newest delivery stop; the new post office needed a name, and local resident Richard Woodard suggested Burdett, after Sir Frances Burdett, a member of Parliament in Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, Early residents farmed the fertile and beautiful land, producing various fruit groups and grain, and bountiful grass for its many sheep and cattle herds; and

WHEREAS, The advent of the Lehigh Railroad in the early 1890s accelerated Burdett's growth; however, with progress, fires raged out of control and threatened the community, prompting the establishment of the first fire company in 1898; and

WHEREAS, After 120 years of service to its community, the fire company will move into its brand-new facility in conjunction with the celebration of the village's 200th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The residents of the Village of Burdett are proud of their home and its storied history; it was the birthplace of a world-famous mechanical engineer who founded the mechanical engineering department at Georgia Tech, and the home to a famous artist who founded the art department at Stanford University and an artist colony at Woodstock, and a family which started road racing in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The people of this community also risked everything to help escaped slaves find peace and freedom in their small village; and

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

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Mayor Dale Walter, the residents of the Village of Burdett have a bright outlook for the future of their community, which remains a beautiful place in which to live and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Village of Burdett's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited town upon the occasion of its 200th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Village of Burdett, New York, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mayor Dale Walter, Village of Burdett, New York.