

**BY:** Senator RITCHIE

**COMMEMORATING** the 40th Anniversary of the Hannibal  
Community Center

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations that would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Hannibal Community Center to be celebrated at an event in November of 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** Housed in a building located on Oswego Street, the Hannibal Community Center has served as a meeting place for individuals aged three to 103 for four decades; and

**WHEREAS,** Originally, the Community Center was known as the Hannibal Baptist Church which was built in 1827; after the Baptist and Presbyterian churches federated in 1926 to form Community Church, the Community House became the center of the social life of the church and, to a lesser extent, the community; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1968, an inspection of the building revealed that the north wall had dangerously deteriorated and the building was condemned; at the time, the congregation of Community Church did not have the necessary funds to repair the building and many residents of the village felt that the historic structure should not be destroyed; and

**WHEREAS,** A committee, headed by Bank Manager, Paul Elkie, was formed in 1976, with the purpose of exploring ways to save the building; after it was disbanded, Mayor Robert Simmons appointed another committee to continue working on saving the historic structure; and

**WHEREAS,** On May 11, 1978, the committee met, named itself the Landmark Committee, and elected the following officers: President, Roz Hastings; Vice President, Robert Hooper; Secretary, Lois Chaffee; and Treasurer, Bea Scott; and

**WHEREAS,** This committee and other members of the community successfully navigated the process of obtaining funds, arranging for occupants, hiring a contractor and holding a dedication ceremony on November 16, 1979; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout the past 40 years, the Hannibal Community Center has provided many social services including youth development, senior support, family stabilization, health and education, and access to community connections; today, the building houses the Hannibal Free Library; The Senior Nutrition Site and Elderberries, Hannibal's senior

citizens group; and the Hannibal Historical Society; and

**WHEREAS,** This vital not-for-profit organization believes in quality, community and collaboration, and these values have been the foundation and inspiration for the Hannibal Community Center since its founding; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Hannibal Community Center; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably embossed, be transmitted to the Hannibal Community Center.