

BY: Senator SERRANO

COMMEMORATING the 125th Anniversary of the New York Public Library (NYPL) on May 23, 2020

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge institutions that strive to provide lifelong learning, advanced knowledge, and cultural opportunities to benefit their communities through increased educational resources within our great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the New York Public Library (NYPL) of New York, New York, on Saturday, May 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The main branch of the library was dedicated in midtown Manhattan on 5th Avenue between 40th and 42nd Streets exactly 16 years after the formation of the NYPL on May 23, 1911; and

WHEREAS, The nation's largest public library system, the NYPL consists of 88 unique branches throughout neighborhoods in The Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, as well as four scholarly research centers; and

WHEREAS, The NYPL serves more than 17 million patrons a year, and millions more online; and

WHEREAS, Through generations of curators, the NYPL has built an organized collection of over 45 million items which include rare books; original manuscripts, photographs, prints, sound recordings, and films; videos related to music, theater, and dance; historical posters and documents; and other items of cultural and historical significance; and

WHEREAS, The NYPL draws a plethora of academic audiences from across the globe such as students, educators, researchers, writers, and readers who have the ability to draw from the legacy the library presents, as well as grow it; and

WHEREAS, The NYPL provides more than access to free books; the libraries are community hubs, which play pivotal roles in closing digital divides, especially for millions of New Yorkers who do not have access to the internet at home; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the NYPL offers comprehensive job search resources and English language and literacy classes for New York City's immigrant communities; it also provides more than 103,000 free programs annually to people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the NYPL is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported the development of the library over the years; and

WHEREAS, Equally commendable are the NYPL's superbly-skilled staff, whose involvement is and has always been characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all of their efforts on behalf of the library and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the NYPL may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the New York Public Library (NYPL); and be it further

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