

**BY:** Senator RITCHIE

**COMMEMORATING** the 200th Anniversary of the Town of  
Morristown, 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 Town of Morristown, St. Lawrence County, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** A town of approximately 1800 people, Morristown was created by the State Legislature on March 27, 1821, and held its first official town board meeting on April 10, 1821; and

**WHEREAS,** Morristown is bounded by the St. Lawrence River to the north and Black Lake to the south and was named after Gouverneur Morris, a signer of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence who owned a tract of land from Gouverneur, New York to the St. Lawrence River, including the Village of Morristown; and

**WHEREAS,** Pioneer families began settling in the Morristown area in 1804, led by Colonel David Ford, a veteran of the Revolutionary War who served with George Washington and during the Whiskey Rebellion; and

**WHEREAS,** When the War of 1812 was declared, Morristown was the scene of one of its first naval battles when the warships USS Julia and HMS Moira battled for control of the St. Lawrence River; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1813, a Morristown resident led a United States military force across the frozen St. Lawrence River to capture Elizabethtown (now known as Brockville, Ontario, Canada) to free Americans being held prisoner; and

**WHEREAS,** Primarily a farming community today, Morristown once teemed with railroad, ferry, milling, and marina activity; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout its history, residents of Morristown have responded to serve the nation during times of conflict, including the Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Gulf War and the War on Terror; and

**WHEREAS,** William H. Comstock, a patent medicine manufacturer whose products included Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills, was a notable resident; furthermore, William H. 'Willie' Johnston, the youngest Medal of Honor winner for his bravery during the Civil War, was born and lived in Morristown as a child; and

**WHEREAS,** Remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of

growth and change, the Town of Morristown continues its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens, ensuring a positive business, institutional and educational climate, and providing all essential services; now, therefore, be it

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

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Town of Morristown, New York.