

Senate Resolution No. 1042

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 Morrilltown, St. Lawrence County, New York; and

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

WHEREAS, Morrilltown 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 Morrilltown; and

WHEREAS, Pioneer families began settling in the Morrilltown 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, Morrilltown 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 Morrilltown 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, Morrilltown once teemed with railroad, ferry, milling, and marina activity; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, residents of Morrilltown 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 Morrilltown 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.