

**BY:** Senator RATH

**COMMENDING** the Rotary Club of Williamsville upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the Amherst Womens Interclub Council on May 7, 2022

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Rotary Club of Williamsville upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the Amherst Womens Interclub Council, to be celebrated at its Annual Kentucky Derby Luncheon on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village in Amherst, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** During this auspicious occasion, this outstanding club will be recognized for its steadfast and unremitting commitment to its community; and

**WHEREAS,** The world's first service club, Rotary International, was founded on February 23, 1905, when Paul Harris, a native of Vermont, found himself a stranger in the city of Chicago; he conceived the idea of inviting three men of different vocations to join him weekly for fellowship and to discuss each other's problems and business; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, Rotary International has grown into an organization including over 1.3 million members in approximately 29,000 clubs across 163 countries; each club is made up of business and professional leaders who are dedicated to humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help to build peace and goodwill throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS,** Since receiving its Charter in 1925, the Rotary Club of Williamsville has diligently worked to make its community a better place to live, work and play through various activities such as metal scrap drives during World War II, annual scholarships to Williamsville High School seniors, a long partnership with the Amherst Symphony's annual scholarship program, and an early advocate for and a continuing supporter of Millard-Fillmore Suburban Hospital; and

**WHEREAS,** Through Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program, the Club has provided opportunities for local high school students to spend a year living and studying in a foreign country while giving the reverse opportunity for foreign students to attend one of Williamsville's high schools; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year, the Rotary Club of Williamsville have made

financial donations to numerous worthy organizations including the Amherst Senior Center, Gateway-Longview Home, Bornhava Early Childhood Center, Buffalo-Niagara Heritage Village, Erie County SPCA, WNY Heroes, Mercy Flight, Community Facilities-Amherst State Park, Heim & Willow Ridge School Playgrounds, Rotary Park in Glen Park, Skating for the Blind, little league baseball, and Make-A-Wish Foundation; and

**WHEREAS,** Since 1987, Rotary Club of Williamsville Foundation, Inc. has provided annual support and commitments to the Williamsville Library, three annual high school senior scholarships, support to MFS, and committed support to capital projects to many organizations, such as The Summit Center and MFS; and

**WHEREAS,** On an international level, the Williamsville Club provided fund support to Rotary International's PolioPlus Program, the Liberian Learning Center with Hamilton, Ontario Rotary; Haiti Clinic Capital Construction and Supplies, joint support with Grand Island Rotary; and the Matrichaya School for Women and a hospital in India; and

**WHEREAS,** The success of the Rotary Club of Williamsville is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the institution and the community it serves; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations which enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Rotary Club of Williamsville upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the Amherst Womens Interclub Council; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Rotary Club of Williamsville.