

BY: Senator PALUMBO

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched and reliably served by the purposeful endeavors of organizations and individuals who are committed to the research and understanding of our natural environment and the enhancement of the appreciation of the distinctive features of our surroundings, and to the economic well-being of the areas in which they exist; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center; and

WHEREAS, The Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center (LIHREC) is a 68-acre facility dedicated to serve the research and extension needs of the horticulture industries of Long Island; the facility features agricultural fields and research plots, state-of-the-art greenhouses, a nursery and container production area, as well as a plant tissue culture facility in support of research projects ranging from grape and vegetable production, to ornamentals and floriculture; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1922 as the Long Island Vegetable Research Farm, this pioneering research facility continues to serve the diverse agricultural community on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, Located on the tip of Long Island in the heart of Suffolk County, New York State's green industry, the LIHREC is the only research center in the United States with scientists and professionals who represent each of the commodity interests; and

WHEREAS, Stakeholders of the green industry are within a 50-mile radius of the center, allowing for daily staff interactions with stakeholders for diagnosis, consultation, training, and tours; and

WHEREAS, Unique growing conditions on Long Island provide exceptional opportunities for this region; ideal for farming, the climate is the only area in New York State with USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7, and strong underground aquifers provide plenty of fresh water; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the reputation of Suffolk County's agriculture is literally rooted in its characteristic white, sandy soils which are the result of thousands of years of glacial deposition made of particles brought from as far away as northern Canada; and

WHEREAS, The confluence of events that occurred during the glacial period, a convergence of water, ice, sun and rock, created a soil completely unique with excellent drainage, moderate water-holding capacity, and modest fertility; no other place can duplicate the soils of eastern Long Island; they are among the finest in the world and a precious natural resource, providing unmatched opportunities for farmers, growers and researchers; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center is in direct correlation to the efforts of its Director, Mark Bridgen, as well as its dedicated scientists and researchers, 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 organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of organizations such as Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center which work tirelessly on behalf of researching and protecting our natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations of New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mark Bridgen, Director, Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center, Cornell University.