

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the Dundee
Library

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary organizations whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; 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 the Dundee Library; and

WHEREAS, With humble beginnings, the Dundee Library evolved from a group of women who began to meet once a week in 1902 to study civic government; one year later, the women formed the Woman's Study Club and from the dues gathered, they bought books for use in preparing programs for their meetings; and

WHEREAS, In March of 1908, E.L. Bailey gave the club 40 books and suggested a library be opened; on May 2nd of the same year, the Dundee Circulating Library, owning 290 books, opened on Saturday afternoons; and

WHEREAS, A building fund was set up in 1912, and when Delia Cooper died in 1917, she bequeathed her house and lot on Water Street to be used for a library and educational purposes; the present building, costing just under \$10,000 was erected, and opened its doors to the public on January 1, 1920; and

WHEREAS, A provisional charter was granted to the Library by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York in August of 1912, under the corporate name of the Woman's Study Club and Library; its Absolute Charter was granted on July 18, 1946, when the library's name changed to the Dundee Library; and

WHEREAS, Area libraries began to study a multi-county library system in 1956, and the Southern Tier Library System (STLS) was established; three years later, the contract was signed with STLS, serving Steuben, Yates, Schuyler, Chemung and Allegany Counties; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of the Library organization was formed in March of 1971, to promote interest in the library and to provide it with additional financial assistance; the Children's Room was opened in November of 1971, and the building was enlarged in 1979, adding two rooms at the basement level and one room on the main floor; and

WHEREAS, In addition, a local history corner was developed in the 1980s, and in 1994, space was added to accommodate a lift for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Dundee Library materials include books, audio books, videotapes, music on disks, DVDs, and large print material and magazines; equipment includes internet-access computers, printers, and a TV/VCR, copier and fax machine; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the library is the repository for the weekly Observer newspaper with bound volumes from 1983 to the present; the Yates History Center began digitizing the volumes in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Open to the public 35 hours a week, the Dundee Library staff includes a Library Director, Youth Services Specialist, Library Clerks and an Account Clerk, as well as a Board of 11 Trustees; and

WHEREAS, The Dundee Library has been an invaluable resource for residents of Dundee, New York, for 100 years; people come to the Library to connect, discover and learn through story times, book group, and various programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of its community, this remarkable institution has continually strived to provide outstanding service to a diverse population of neighborhood residents; and

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

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Dundee Library 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 100th Anniversary of the Dundee Library; and be it further

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