

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMEMORATING the 40th Anniversary of Hunt Country
Vineyards

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those individuals and businesses that contribute substantially to the economic vitality of their communities, thereby enhancing economic well-being of the entire 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 40th Anniversary of Hunt Country Vineyards; and

WHEREAS, Seeing an unprecedented growth over the past few years and allowing wine enthusiasts to enjoy this unique part of the New York experience across the state, Hunt Country Vineyards has truly showcased why New York State is a premier wine destination; and

WHEREAS, The Hunt Family has been farming on the west side of Keuka Lake for seven generations; when Art and Joyce Hunt first moved back to the family farm in the 1970s, their intent was to live close to the land and run a farm like the Hunt family had done for several generations before; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the decisions they made and the circumstances that came their way, would eventually lead them to open Hunt Country Vineyards in 1981, and become one of the founding families of the Finger Lakes Wine Region that we know and love today; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Art and Joyce Hunt moved back to the family farm on Keuka Lake to grow grapes, taking over from Art's elderly uncle; the couple knew very little about running a farm, but they were certain of where they wanted to be; and

WHEREAS, Art's uncle was an excellent teacher, and Art and Joyce Hunt learned how to care for 18 acres of grapes and how to plant and grow a wide variety of grains, dry beans and hay crops; they started a garden for themselves, with both vegetables and fruit, and learned to cut down trees for wood and handle all of the old farm tools laying around; Art even became quite adept at restoring old buildings and old equipment; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, during this time, Art and Joyce Hunt planted another 50 acres of grapes and began the art of winemaking; and

WHEREAS, Establishing their winery in 1981, Art and Joyce Hunt, along with several other family farms, learned the craft, pioneering farming techniques and shaping legislation to help create the Finger Lakes wine region that we know and love today; and

WHEREAS, Just three years later, Art Hunt and Dr. Tom Zabadal from

Cornell University teamed up to perform the first successful trials of field grafting grape vines in the Northeast United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Hunt Country Vineyards made its first ice wines, becoming the longest continuous producer of genuine ice wine in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hunt Country Vineyards installed its award-winning geothermal heat exchange system to heat and cool all of its large buildings in 2012; in 2016, this extraordinary vineyard installed 349 solar panels to provide nearly all of the electricity used by the farm and winery, and in 2017, it grew its first six acres of certified organic grapes; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 40-year history, Hunt Country Vineyards, located on Italy Hill Road in Branchport, New York, has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of Hunt Country Vineyards is in direct correlation to the efforts of its devoted staff, 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, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business, its contributions to the local and state economies, and its vibrant role in improving the quality of life in its community, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Hunt Country Vineyards; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Hunt Country Vineyards.