

**BY:** M. of A. Sayegh

**COMMEMORATING** the 50th Anniversary of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, also known as Amtrak

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize organizations which have positively impacted and substantially contributed to the vitality 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 commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, also known as Amtrak; and

**WHEREAS,** Amtrak is a public-private corporation founded in 1971, which took ownership of most of the intercity passenger rail service in the United States and operates passenger railroads across 500 locations throughout 46 states; and

**WHEREAS,** On October 30, 1970, Congress passed legislation chartering Amtrak in an effort to protect railroads from further decay following a decline in passenger service through the latter half of the 20th Century; and

**WHEREAS,** The United States Department of Transportation offered any operator of intercity rail service a chance to join the public-private partnership, of which 20 of the 26 railroads still offering passenger service obliged to join, including all operators in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** On May 1, 1971, Amtrak began passenger service in several major corridors, including those in New York, where Amtrak inaugurated passenger service on its Empire Service Line serving cities between New York and Buffalo; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, Amtrak serves over 31 million passengers in the United States across nearly 22,000 miles of track, as well as operates dozens of routes across the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Amtrak is central to the State of New York's economy, providing reliable and affordable passenger rail service to millions of New Yorkers across hundreds of miles; and

**WHEREAS,** Amtrak brings New Yorkers together, transporting thousands of business travelers, families, college students, and legislators across New York's Empire Corridor routes annually; and

**WHEREAS,** Amtrak continues to innovate in passenger rail, offering cost effective and ecologically sustainable options, including new high-speed trains which can travel over 200 miles per hour; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body

acknowledges this important milestone in the history of Amtrak; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, also known as Amtrak; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed be transmitted to The New York Amtrak Business Office, The Yonkers Railroad Station, and Amtrak National Headquarters.