Assembly Resolution No. 113

BY: M. of A. Brabenec

COMMEMORATING the 222nd Birthday of William H. Seward, former New York State Senator, former New York State Governor, former United States Senator, former United States Secretary of State, and purchaser of Alaska

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 222nd Birthday of William H. Seward, former New York State Senator, former New York State Governor, former United States Senator, former United States Secretary of State, and purchaser of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, In observance of this auspicious occasion, a special birthday celebration will be held at the Seward Memorial Site located in the Village of Florida on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, with live music, speeches and various family activities; in addition, a wreath will be laid at the memorial site; and

WHEREAS, William Henry Seward was born in Florida, New York, on May 16, 1801, and died in Auburn, New York, on October 12, 1872, where he spent much of his adult life; and

WHEREAS, William Henry Seward made a monumental impact in the histories of not only Orange County, but New York State and the entire country, serving in numerous leadership capacities such as New York Senator, New York Governor, United States Senator and Secretary of State for both the Lincoln and Johnson administrations; and

WHEREAS, Sympathetic to the plights of runaway slaves, William Henry Seward offered his home in Auburn as a stop on the Underground Railroad, where he hid slaves on their way to Canada; and

WHEREAS, In 1867, William Henry Seward acquired Alaska for the United States from Russia; through the years he tried in vain to purchase Hawaii and the Dutch West Indies, as well as build a canal in Panama; all of which came to fruition long after his death; and

WHEREAS, After a failed presidential bid in 1860, William Henry Seward served as President Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State; in this capacity, he was instrumental in the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Bound to his roots, William Henry Seward was a vital part of the S.S. Seward Institute in Florida, New York, a school which his father founded in 1846; and

WHEREAS, William Henry Seward will forever be remembered for his achievements in office, and for his foresight in anticipating the future needs of the United States; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity

to express its highest admiration for William Henry Seward, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to an individual and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 222nd Birthday of William H. Seward, former New York State Senator, former New York State Governor, former United States Senator, former United States Secretary of State, and purchaser of Alaska; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Florida Historical Society.