

BY: M. of A. Stern

COMMEMORATING the 275th Anniversary of St. John's
Episcopal Church of Huntington, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 275th Anniversary of St. John's Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this auspicious occasion will be celebrated in 2023; and

WHEREAS, In 1745, St. John's Episcopal Church was founded by the Reverend Samuel Seabury Sr., who later became the first Bishop of the Episcopal Church; in 1748 Samuel Seabury Jr. was appointed Lay Reader and Catechist and given charge of the new mission outpost under the direction of his father; and

WHEREAS, In 1767, Reverend James Greaton became the first settled minister at St. John's Episcopal Church, and upon his death in 1773, was the last settled minister for many years; and

WHEREAS, During the Revolutionary War, the church building was used as a stable and barracks for soldiers, and was severely damaged; nevertheless, local families held occasional services, and from time to time a refugee clergyman was available to preach and administer the sacraments; and

WHEREAS, St. John's Episcopal Church struggled after the War, however by 1838, the fortunes of the congregation had improved to the point that the parish was incorporated, and the Reverend Isaac Sherwood became the first rector; and

WHEREAS, In 1860, a new church was to be built on the old site and the Reverend Caleb Ellsworth lead the congregation; on May 6, 1862, the new building was consecrated by Bishop Hobart; and

WHEREAS, Towards the end of the 19th Century, St. John's Episcopal Church was part of a new diocese, improvements were made to the building, and it flourished; unfortunately, on Easter in 1905, the building was destroyed by fire, however, the furnishings were saved which are still in use today; and

WHEREAS, The current building was relocated to the new village

center and the first services were held on Pentecost in 1907; a new parish hall was built, and the church was consecrated 10 years later; and

WHEREAS, The 20th Century saw rapid growth of the Huntington area; in 1910, the Grace Chapel was established, and many improvements were made including the installation of a Casavant organ in 1928; in 1964, a Sunday School building was erected to handle the influx of the growing congregation; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of Reverend Duncan Burns, St. John's Episcopal Church is a vibrant, growing congregation with youth programs, cultural events, a well-renowned nursery school, Christian Education programs, and an outstanding choir; and

WHEREAS, St. John's Episcopal Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 275th Anniversary of St. John's Episcopal Church, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Duncan Burns, St. John's Episcopal Church.