Assembly Resolution No. 2124

BY: M. of A. Levenberg

COMMEMORATING the 10th Anniversary of the Lincoln Depot Museum

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Lincoln Depot Museum, to be celebrated with a ceremony on Saturday, April 27, 2024; additionally, later in the year, an Anniversary Reception will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Located by Peekskill Bay on the east bank of the Hudson River, The Lincoln Depot Museum is a 3,000 square foot freight and passenger rail depot where President-elect Abraham Lincoln stopped to greet New Yorkers on February 19, 1861 during his inaugural train ride between Springfield, Illinois and Washington, DC.; and

WHEREAS, This historic event still resonates today as an inspiration to the study of local history and historic preservation; it resulted in the formation of the Lincoln Society in Peekskill in 1903, which continues to be the oldest continually active such society in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the National Park Service highlighted the importance of Lincoln's Peekskill stop in 2011 when Peekskill was included as one of their few reenacted events commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Lincoln's Inaugural Journey; and

WHEREAS, The historic building was acquired in 2003, and the Lincoln Depot Foundation was established in 2007 with the goal to restore the Depot as a museum that would illuminate and celebrate Lincoln's relationship to New York and to New Yorkers before and during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Remembering and recounting Lincoln's ties to Peekskill has special resonance for those who treasure the history of the Hudson Valley as well as lovers of Civil War history; and

WHEREAS, Utilizing New York State grants, the Lincoln Depot Foundation was able to reach their goal and a new structure, the Lincoln Depot Visitor's Center, was completed in 2019; the Visitor's Center houses the museum offices, additional exhibits, a small gift shop and an open meeting room to hold events; and

WHEREAS, New on display for 2024, the museum's exhibit, "New York and Abraham Lincoln: The Indispensable Relationship," not only shows the impact of Lincoln to Peekskill and the Hudson Valley region, but to New

York as a whole; the importance of New York to Lincoln's success is also highlighted; it is the only such museum in the entire state and has gained national attention and interest; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of its President, John G. Testa, the museum project was recognized by The American Institute of Architects with their Design Award and named "Best Museum in Westchester" by Westchester Magazine; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, the Lincoln Depot Museum explores, remembers, and educates audiences about the role local history played on the national stage; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Lincoln Depot Museum is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated staff and board, 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 the custom of this Legislative Body that when institutions of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Lincoln Depot Museum; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable John G. Testa, President of the Lincoln Depot Museum.