Assembly Resolution No. 522

BY: M. of A. Tague

COMMEMORATING the 350th Anniversary of the Town of Coeymans on April 7, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great 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 350th Anniversary of the Town of Coeymans in Albany County, New York, to be celebrated with a myriad of events on Friday and Saturday, June 9 & 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Coeymans was named after Barent Pieteres Koijemans who arrived in New York from Holland in 1639; on April 7, 1673, he officially took possession of the land he purchased from Native Americans in 1672, land which became known as the Coeymans Patent; and

WHEREAS, The land from the Coeymans Patent was approximately 120 square miles, located along the Hudson River, spanning from Bethlehem to Coxsackie, inclusive of the modern towns of Coeymans, New Baltimore, and Westerlo; and

WHEREAS, It was in this area which Barent Pieteres Koijemans erected his home which is known as the Coeymans Castle, along with two grist mills and two sawmills, all located along the Coeymans Creek; these mills were the catalyst for the area's flourishing commercial and industrial river port, making the Town of Coeymans well known to river travelers for many centuries; and

WHEREAS, The Revolutionary War, starting in 1776, was another contributing factor to the rapid growth of local industries; the need for ship building grew drastically, with local sawmills supplying lumber for the construction of ships such as gunboats and gundelos; and

WHEREAS, Following the war, the Hudson River Valley area became rapidly settled; the prosperous river port known as Coeymans Landing was the earliest settlement which quickly became instrumental in the commercial trading of goods such as spices, molasses, tobacco, cloth, clothing, rice, brandy, spirits, and local produce; and

WHEREAS, The first recorded Town meeting was held in April of 1811, and the first Supervisor was elected in 1818; and

WHEREAS, Commerce continued to grow following the close of the War of 1812, and continued to grow through the turn of the century; ship building and ice harvesting were prominent industries, alongside brick manufacturing, Mossy Hill Stone Quarry, and the variety of grist, saw, and water mills which were built along the Hannacroix Creek and in modern day Alcove; and

WHEREAS, Stage companies established routes and were given contracts for carrying mail around 1820; prior to this time, mail had commonly been carried by Post Riders; and

WHEREAS, A turnpike company was incorporated for the construction and maintenance of a highway from Coeymans Landing through Coeymans Hollow, Indian Fields, Dormansville, and Westerlo, to the Delaware Turnpike, ranging a total of approximately 18 miles; and

WHEREAS, The first newspaper in the area was published in 1863; in 1907, the Ravena News bought the Coeymans Herald to become the News Herald, with F. E. Bleezarde becoming the owner in 1917; and

WHEREAS, Coeymans was first connected to Albany in 1864 by the Saratoga and Hudson River Railroad, however, this railroad was short-lived, and the Town went without a railroad until 1883, when the New York West Shore Buffalo Line was completed; and

WHEREAS, With the completion of the latter railroad, Coeymans Square, which later became known as Coeymans Junction, and lastly called Ravena, truly thrived; and

WHEREAS, Waterworks systems were constructed in the Town in 1897, telephone services were added in 1903, electric lights were added in 1908, Ravena was incorporated into a village in 1914, and a sewage system was installed in 1915; and

WHEREAS, Rich in history, the Fletcher Blaisdell Farm Complex, Coeymans School, Ariaanje Coeymans House, Coeymans-Bronck Stone House, Mull House and Cemetery, Tobias Ten Eyck House and Cemeteries, Cornelius and Agnietje Van Derzee House, Little Red Schoolhouse Museum, and the Electus Shear house are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Present day Coeymans is home to a population of around 7,200 citizens, sitting just 15 miles south of the City of Albany, the New York State capital in the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District; and

WHEREAS, Many events and activities take place to celebrate life in the Town of Coeymans; notably, the occasions of Riverfest, the Friendship Festival, and the We Love aRtCS Music and Art Festival provide opportunities for the community at large to socialize, educate, learn, eat, dance, and marvel at the artistic and musical talents within the community; and

WHEREAS, The 350th Anniversary of the Town of Coeymans will be celebrated on Friday and Saturday, June 9 & 10, 2023, at Joralemon Park and Coeymans Landing; these days will be host to food, vendors, parades, rides, local live music, and a memorable display of fireworks to close the night; and

WHEREAS, Remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Town of Coeymans continues its commitment to

enhancing the quality of life of its citizens, ensuring a positive business, institutional, and educational climate, as well as providing all essential services for its citizenry to thrive; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Town of Coeymans on April 7, 2023, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Town of Coeymans.