Assembly Resolution No. 810

BY: M. of A. Levenberg

COMMENDING the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library upon the occasion of hosting its Bicentennial celebration on December 19, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary organizations whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library upon the occasion of hosting its Bicentennial celebration on Tuesday, December 19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library and Putnam History Museum organized the Julia L. Butterfield Bicentennial to honor Julia's 200th birthday on December 19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, This is the latest in a series of events and activities to commemorate her remarkable life and enduring legacy in Cold Spring, New York; her legacy positively impacts the Cold Spring community to this day as her last wishes included bequests for the construction of a library (Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library), a hospital (Butterfield Hospital), and the St. Mary's Church parsonage; and

WHEREAS, The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library was established through the will of the late Julia L. Butterfield who died on August 6, 1913, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, Julie L. Butterfield was born on December 19, 1823, on St. Marks' Place in New York City; she moved to Cold Spring in 1852 with her first husband Frederick James; and

WHEREAS, Until her death, she spent a large portion of her time at her beautiful Cold Spring residence known as Cragside which was located on the site of the new Haldane Central School District's high school building; the gatehouse to Cragside still stands today on the corner of Route 9D (Morris Ave) and Craigside Drive; and

WHEREAS, Julia L. Butterfield loved to entertain, and her frequent guests included the Grand Duke of Russia, the Count of Paris, presidents of the United States, several governors, famous generals, and bishops; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, many of the paintings that hang in the Library today once hung in Cragside; the most famous, "A Pic-Nic on the Hudson," was painted in 1863 by Hudson River School artist Thomas Rossiter who also lived in Cold Spring and was a friend of Julia L. Butterfield; and

WHEREAS, Today, a vital part of its community, this remarkable institution has continually strived to provide outstanding service, focusing on education, recreation, and social inclusion, to a diverse population of neighborhood residents; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of the Board of Trustees and many individuals who have supported the development of the library over the years; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library upon the occasion of hosting its Bicentennial celebration on December 19, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library, Cold Spring, New York.