Assembly Resolution No. 973

BY: M. of A. Manktelow

COMMEMORATING the 60th Anniversary of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society on February 15, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society on Thursday, February 15, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Founded with a mission to preserve the valuable lessons learned and stories of yesteryear, the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society was established in 1964; the Society aims to carry on the ideals of its five founders and to keep history alive in the quaint lakeside hamlet of Pultneyville, which dates to 1806; and

WHEREAS, Inhabiting The Society House, Centennial Park, and Gates Hall, the Historical Society's Gates Hall was built in 1825 and is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Starting from humble beginnings, a small group came together to discuss the founding of a historical society for the two towns of Williamson and Pultneyville at the home of Florence Forbes Cornwall; and

WHEREAS, The first meeting called to organize a historical society was held on February 15, 1964; the five founders were present with the support of a group of interested people in the population; and

WHEREAS, The five founders of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society are vital to the legacy of its beginnings: Florence Forbes Cornwall had a deep love of local history, recognizing the significance of the area's heritage; Alice Gallup was interested in history and was community-minded, serving as president of the Society for three terms, and also as treasurer and newsletter editor; Edward B. Leahy Jr. was the first president of the newly formed Society in 1964 and an active member for the remainder of his life; Chester A. Peters was a lifelong resident of Williamson who developed a love of history and served as the first Town of Williamson historian for 50 years. Relating to the Society, he was president four times and also served in other offices; John C. Westerberg, who was the first founder to become a resident of Pultneyville in 1958, immediately became interested in historic Gates Hall, delving into its storied past and served as an inspiration to start a historical society; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 60-year history, the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated President, Nanette Peters Hance, board members, staff and volunteers, 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, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society 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 commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society on February 15, 2024; and be it further

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