Senate Resolution No. 1528

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING the Waterville Historical Society upon the occasion of celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2026

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations that embrace the historical significance and contributions of their localities which strengthen the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Waterville Historical Society upon the occasion of celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2026; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1966 by **Waterville Times** publisher Mary Cleary, the Waterville Historical Society has always been driven by the mission to document, preserve, and share the rich history of the Village of Waterville, New York, the Town of Sangerfield, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, The Waterville Historical Society is fittingly housed in a building rich in history on East Main Street in Waterville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Prior to serving as the home of the Waterville Historical Society, the building at 220 East Main Street in Waterville was first used in the 1800s by organ builder Alvinza Andrews, and William Winchell, a member of the Presbyterian Church who is believed to have been active in the Underground Railroad, and was then converted into a female academy or girls' school; and

WHEREAS, The building at 220 East Main Street in Waterville later was purchased by Mary Genevie Green Brainard in 1894, who renovated the property and donated it to the Waterville YMCA; during this time, the building had a single-lane bowling alley built in the basement and a two-story gymnasium attached to the rear of the building, which is currently used as the Waterville Historical Society's Barton Hall meeting room and gallery; and

WHEREAS, After the Waterville YMCA vacated the building at 220 East Main Street in Waterville in 1907, the Waterville Public Library occupied the building from 1908 to 2006; in 2009, the Waterville Historical Society officially made its home in this historical building; and

WHEREAS, In celebration of its 60-year milestone, the Waterville Historical Society will be hosting special programs to highlight the organization's history and to plan for the bright future ahead; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, April 18, 2026, the Waterville Historical Society will host a Spring Gala at Stately on Main, the former Presbyterian Church turned event center, to celebrate its past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, As the Waterville Historical Society looks ahead, President Debbie Conway has launched a fundraising campaign to expand upon the organization's reserve funds so it is better prepared for any unexpected expenses or emergencies that may arise; and

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

WHEREAS, The success of the Waterville Historical Society is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated past and present 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, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Waterville 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 commend the Waterville Historical Society upon the occasion of celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2026; and be it further

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