Senate Resolution No. 1587

BY: Senator BORRELLO

COMMEMORATING the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Randolph, New York, in 2026

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 200th Anniversary of the Town of Randolph, New York, to be honored at the Bicentennial Celebration on Saturday, March 7, 2026; and

WHEREAS, In 1825, the Erie Canal was completed, reducing the cost of transportation and travel time into the western part of New York State; the Town of Conewango, which included the present-day towns of Leon, Randolph, and South Valley, began to expand rapidly; and

WHEREAS, By 1826, the Holland Land Company had completed its surveys of Western New York, including Cattaraugus County, and started selling the undeveloped land to pioneer settlers; approximately 30-40 families had purchased land and settled in the future Town of Randolph, New York; and

WHEREAS, On February 1, 1826, the New York State Legislature passed the Act that divided Conewango, creating the Town of Randolph which, at that time, also included the current Town of South Valley; the Act stated, "àthat the first town meeting shall be held at the house of Benjamin Clark, in said town, on the first Tuesday in March nextà"; and

WHEREAS, At the first town meeting in Randolph, Thomas Harvey, Justice of the Peace, was appointed as moderator; those who assembled chose Jeremiah York as Town Supervisor and Andrew D. Smith as Town Clerk; they also selected assessors, highway commissioners, the poor master, commissioners and inspectors of common schools, a tax collector, and path masters; in the early days, the town meetings occurred just once per year, unlike once a month today, with business focused on development of roads, operation of schools, and care for the poor; and

WHEREAS, In 1830, the Town of Randolph conducted its first census, denoting that the Town had grown to approximately 135 households with a total population of 776 residents; and

WHEREAS, Two centuries later, the Town of Randolph consists of 1,510 parcels of land and homes and a population of 2,400 citizens; the Southern Tier Expressway (I-86) passes through Randolph's rolling hills, creating a gateway to tourist destinations such as the New York Amish Trail and nearby Holiday Valley; and

WHEREAS, Today, Randolph is a charming town which is nestled in the

Enchanted Mountains of Cattaraugus County in Western New York; the Town offers a blend of rural tranquility and community spirit; and

WHEREAS, The quaint downtown area of Randolph is filled with small businesses, including niche shops, doctors' offices, banks, and small restaurants; a few manufacturing businesses and many farms contribute to the economy; the largest employer is Randolph Central School; and

WHEREAS, Of historic origin, and remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Town of Randolph continues to provide the quintessential quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the Town of Randolph have a bright outlook for the future of their community which remains a beautiful place in which to live, raise a family, conduct business, and enjoy the natural beauty and historical sites that make this sector of New York State a charming and welcoming community; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Randolph's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited town upon the occasion of its 200th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Randolph, New York, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the communities 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 Randolph.