

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 175th Anniversary of the
Boonville Herald

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those illustrious journalistic entities which have diligently and consistently, year after year, recorded the history of their communities and brought local news and news of the larger world to their readers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Boonville Herald; and

WHEREAS, The first newspaper, named the Boonville Ledger, was started in the Village of Boonville in March 1851 by James Norton and his partner, Ela Kent; soon after, Norton sold out his share to Kent, who continued publishing the Boonville Ledger for another three years; and

WHEREAS, In 1855, the Utica-Black River Railroad was completed and the Boonville Ledger was purchased by L.C. Childs, who changed the name to the Black River Herald; and

WHEREAS, Harvey P. Willard became the owner in 1862; soon after, the name was changed once more to the Boonville Herald; and

WHEREAS, The Willard family would own and operate the Boonville Herald for decades; when Harvey Willard died in 1887, his son Garry Willard took the helm, then, Willard died in 1933, at the age of 73, his daughter Gladys Willard Musser became publisher of the Boonville Herald; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Willard Musser led the newspaper until her death in 1954, at which point her husband, Clayton Musser, took over until his death in 1958, then his daughters and their husbands continued operation of the Willard Press and the Boonville Herald until it was sold to the Frey brothers in 1960; and

WHEREAS, The Boonville Herald continued to change hands throughout the next decades until finally being purchased by the Waters family, owners of the Rome Daily Sentinel company, in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its long history, the Boonville Herald has embraced modernization, beginning with purchasing the first Linotype machine for the press in 1896, all the way to today where the newspaper is assembled digitally as most articles and photos are submitted electronically through emails and social media plays a large role in the newspaper business, and subscribers have the option to read the newspaper online, rather than receive it in print; and

WHEREAS, With all the advancements in technology, the Boonville Herald is still published each week, remaining a connection between its readers to the world; and

WHEREAS, As the Boonville Herald moves into the future, it carries with it the legacy of a distinguished journalistic history and an outstanding record of growth and achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Boonville Herald, and to offer best wishes to its publishers for continued success in all their future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Boonville Herald.