

BY: Senator HELMING

COMMEMORATING the 200th Anniversary of the Towns
of Butler, Huron, Rose, and Wolcott, New York

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the distinguished histories of the communities which comprise this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, In full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Towns of Butler, Huron, Rose, and Wolcott, New York, to be celebrated throughout 2026; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to an act of the New York State Legislature signed on February 25, 1826, the Town of Wolcott was divided, effective April 3, 1826, establishing the Towns of Butler, Huron, and Rose; and

WHEREAS, Prior to European settlement, this region, with its forests, waterways, and access to Lake Ontario, served as vital hunting, fishing, and gathering grounds for the Cayuga Nation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Butler was named for Revolutionary War General William Butler; the Town of Huron, originally Port Bay, was renamed in 1834 in honor of the Huron/Wendat Confederacy; the Town of Rose was named for New York State Congressman Robert Selden Rose; and the Town of Wolcott was named for Founding Father and Governor of Connecticut Oliver Wolcott; and

WHEREAS, Early settlement was led in part by Revolutionary War veterans, including Captain William Helm, who settled near Sodus Bay in 1800; Captain Peter Mills in the Butler area circa 1803; and Private Jonathan Melvin and his son Caleb, who settled in the Wolcott and Rose areas in 1805; and

WHEREAS, The region's fertile land supported early subsistence farming, which expanded into broader agricultural commerce with the development of local markets, the Erie Canal, and rail transportation, contributing to Wayne County's distinction as one of the leading apple-producing counties in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Beyond agriculture, these towns possess rich histories marked by significant events, industries, and contributions to the cultural and economic development of the region; and

WHEREAS, Though separated in 1826, the communities were united through the establishment of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District in 1969, strengthening regional ties through a shared commitment to education; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Towns of Butler, Huron, Rose, and Wolcott

maintain strong and productive relationships, celebrating both their distinct identities and shared heritage; and

WHEREAS, These towns, rooted in history and sustained through generations of growth and change, continue to provide a high quality of life for their residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Towns of Butler, Huron, Rose, and Wolcott, New York, recognizing their enduring contributions to the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Towns of Butler, Huron, Rose, and Wolcott, New York, as well as the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District.