

Senate Resolution No. 1825

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of the New
Hartford Public Library

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary organizations whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of 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 50th Anniversary of the New Hartford Public Library; and

WHEREAS, The Town of New Hartford, New York is steeped in years of rich history and has experienced numerous attempts at the founding of a public library over nearly two centuries; and

WHEREAS, Despite the many shortcomings and adversities that many of the town's early libraries faced, in 1975, ten local women created a grass roots effort to start a new library that would remain free of charge to resident cardholders; and

WHEREAS, These noble and hardworking women, ever devoted to their community, saw their idea come fully to fruition on May 6, 1976, when the New Hartford Library first opened its doors to the public; and

WHEREAS, The original library was located in the basement of a converted room of Point School, with a generous citizen, Dr. Clark Case, donating his entire personal library as the foundation of the institution's book reserve; and

WHEREAS, Growing steadily in popularity, the library acquired new literature through donations and purchases and moved to a larger physical space—a classroom in the school; the New Hartford Library began hosting story hours for preschool children and began summer reading programs for other school children; and

WHEREAS, Later, in 1983, the New Hartford Library began operating in a 2,600-square-foot space in the Point School and received a provisional charter from the New York State Board of Regents; the library also became a member of the Mid-York Library System during this time; and

WHEREAS, Due to its membership with the Mid-York Library System, the New Hartford Library was able to borrow books and training materials from other established libraries in the regional system, promoting its growth and operational excellence; and

WHEREAS, The unwavering resilience, professionalism, and dedication to community that was exhibited by the New Hartford Library led to the reception of a permanent charter by the New York State Board of Regents

on January 19, 1988; and

WHEREAS, Experiencing more growth and success in the early 1990s, the New Hartford Library sought expansion to a larger physical space; the board of trustees concluded that the New Hartford community would be best served by erecting a 10,000-square-foot building on the present site which was owned by the library; 1,500 generous donors provided \$1,500,000 in funding for the new library during an incredible two-year public fund-raising campaign; and

WHEREAS, The New Hartford Library moved into the newly constructed building at 2 Library Lane on April 10, 1999, and opened to the public on April 17, 1999; since that time, it has become the third-busiest library in a 47 library, three-county region; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the New Hartford Public Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of its hard-working staff, visionary founders, generous donors, and the many dedicated individuals who have supported the development of the library over the past 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the New Hartford Public Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural, and intellectual needs of its community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the New Hartford Public Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New Hartford Public Library.