

Senate Resolution No. 1930

BY: Senator WEBB

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of the Hangar Theatre and recognizing its enduring contributions to the cultural and artistic life of the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those institutions whose purpose and achievements contribute to the cultural vitality and enrichment of their communities; 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 Hangar Theatre; and

WHEREAS, Founded in a converted World War II-era airplane hangar, the Hangar Theatre opened its doors on July 11, 1975, with a production of Man of La Mancha, made possible through more than a decade of dedicated effort by impassioned citizens of Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, The original transformation of a municipal airport hangar into a vibrant cultural institution was realized through the combined efforts of the Ithaca Repertory Theatre, later renamed the Hangar Theatre Company in 1978, Cornell University, Ithaca College, and the City of Ithaca, along with the support of a grant from Nelson Rockefeller; and

WHEREAS, Over the past five decades, the Hangar Theatre has grown into a year-round venue of national prominence, known for producing performances of exceptional quality while serving as a vital training ground for emerging theatre artists; and

WHEREAS, The Hangar Theatre's mission is to create and present performances of exceptional quality in New York's Finger Lakes region while training the next generation of theatre artists, inspiring its community with work and classes that enrich, entertain, and enlighten, and affirming its belief in the transformative power of theatre; and

WHEREAS, Its vision as an artistic home nurturing a lifelong love of the performing arts is reflected in its dedication to excellence, education, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Guided by its core values of gratitude, generosity, equality, inclusion, diversity, quality, and integrity, the Hangar Theatre has fostered an environment that uplifts both artists and audiences alike; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating a steadfast commitment to accessibility, the Hangar Theatre strives to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment for all patrons, offering accommodations and ensuring that all individuals may enjoy performances in safe and supportive surroundings; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the successful completion of the "Hangar for All Seasons" capital campaign achieved its \$4.6 million goal, enabling a full renovation of the facility and establishing a permanent, year-round home for the theatre while expanding its capacity to host a wide range of events, from folk concerts to opera galas; and

WHEREAS, The Hangar Theatre stands today as a testament to visionary leadership, community collaboration, and resilience, supported by countless individuals including professional artists, educators, volunteers, local businesses, and public officials, whose collective efforts have made it an essential part of the quality of life in the region; and

WHEREAS, The Hangar Theatre is a rare institution born not solely from artistic ambition, but from the passion and dedication of an entire community, embodying the spirit and identity of Ithaca itself; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the Hangar Theatre has remained committed to both artistic excellence and education, playing a pivotal role in the regional theatre movement and continuing to inspire generations through performances and training programs that enrich, entertain, and enlighten; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Hangar Theatre, recognizing its outstanding contributions to the arts, education, and cultural heritage of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Hangar Theatre.