

BY: Senator HELMING

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of the Genesee
Country Village & Museum

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; 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 Genesee Country Village & Museum; and

WHEREAS, Genesee Country Village & Museum was founded in 1966 with the goal of preserving the architecture of the Genesee Valley region in a recreated historic village, providing context for the telling of New York State and 19th-century American history; and

WHEREAS, Envisioned by John L. "Jack" Wehle, an avid outdoorsman and president of the Genesee Brewing Company, the museum was established to preserve the disappearing craftsmanship of regional carpenters, master builders, and house wrights, while also providing a home for his distinguished collection of sporting art; and

WHEREAS, Chartered as an educational institution by the New York State Board of Regents, the museum has grown to encompass 600 acres and now includes the Historic Village, the John L. Wehle Gallery, and the Genesee Country Nature Center, offering interactive programs, engaging exhibits, and special events that allow visitors to experience history in meaningful and immersive ways; and

WHEREAS, Today, Genesee Country Village & Museum stands as the largest and most comprehensive living history museum in New York State, and the third-largest in the United States, featuring 68 historic buildings, more than 20,000 artifacts, significant collections of wildlife art, and vibrant living collections across its gardens, working farm, and nature center; and

WHEREAS, Since opening to the public in 1976 in honor of the nation's bicentennial, the museum has continued to expand and evolve, thanks to the dedication of its leadership, including John L. "Ted" Wehle Jr. and current President and CEO Becky Wehle, as well as countless staff members, volunteers, and supporters who have preserved and brought to life the rich heritage of the Genesee Valley region; and

WHEREAS, The success of Genesee Country Village & Museum is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Genesee Country Village & Museum and to honor its founders, leaders, and members, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to preserve history and enrich the cultural life of the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Genesee Country Village & Museum.