

BY: Senator HELMING

COMMENDING Camp Stella Maris upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2026

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 youth 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 commend Camp Stella Maris upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, For a century, Camp Stella Maris, located along the eastern shore of Conesus Lake in the Town of Livonia, Livingston County, has provided generations of young people with opportunities for growth through friendship, faith, and enriching summer experiences; and

WHEREAS, In 1926, seminarians Gerald Lambert and Eugene Hudson envisioned the lakeshore as the ideal setting for a summer camp where youth could grow in faith, friendship, and confidence; that first summer, 12 boys laid the foundation for what would become a cherished and enduring institution; and

WHEREAS, Shortly thereafter, the property which continues to serve as the camp's home was secured through the generosity of Max Russer and, following his passing, his wife, Eleanor Russer, who entrusted the land to the Diocese of Rochester to ensure its continued use for the benefit of young people; and

WHEREAS, Guided by the traditions of the Roman Catholic faith, Camp Stella Maris expanded its mission in 1941 to include girls, broadening opportunities for participation and leadership, and continuing its commitment to fostering personal growth, confidence, and lifelong friendships; and

WHEREAS, Today, Camp Stella Maris welcomes thousands of campers each year through both day and overnight programs, with many families returning generation after generation, establishing a legacy of shared experiences and enduring connections; and

WHEREAS, Camp Stella Maris is steadfast in its commitment to accessibility, providing financial assistance through the Charles M. Bayer Campership Program, thereby ensuring that all children, regardless of financial circumstances, have the opportunity to benefit from the camp experience; and

WHEREAS, Beyond its summer programming, Camp Stella Maris serves the broader community year-round, hosting schools, youth organizations, and businesses for retreats, team-building, and leadership development

through initiatives such as the Adventure-Based Learning Experience (ABLE) program, which has enriched the lives of thousands since its inception in 1972; and

WHEREAS, The success and longevity of Camp Stella Maris is in direct correlation to the vision of its founders and the steadfast dedication of its staff, volunteers, community partners, and supporters, whose efforts have ensured its continued impact over the past century; and

WHEREAS, As Camp Stella Maris looks toward its second century, it remains committed to growth and innovation, including plans for a new fieldhouse to enhance year-round programming and expand opportunities for leadership, recreation, and community engagement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Camp Stella Maris upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary, and to honor its founders, staff, volunteers, and supporters, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to enrich the lives of countless young people and strengthen the fabric of the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Camp Stella Maris.