

BY: Senator HELMING

COMMEMORATING the 175th Anniversary of the Alton
Cobblestone Community Church

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate the important milestones of historic institutions within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Alton Cobblestone Community Church; and

WHEREAS, The Christian Church of Alton was organized in 1842 and incorporated in 1851, the same year its distinctive cobblestone church building was completed by builder William Walker whose craftsmanship helped create one of Wayne County's most treasured historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, Constructed in the Greek Revival style, the church stands as a tribute to the skilled cobblestone masons and immigrant laborers who gathered stones from the shores of Lake Ontario at Sodus Point and transported them by horse and oxen more than five miles to the church site where they were carefully sorted and laid by hand; and

WHEREAS, The church steeple and belfry, designed in the Romanesque style and housing a bell cast by the Clinton H. Meneely Bell Company in 1892, were added later and continue to serve as defining features of the church; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its long and distinguished history, the Alton Cobblestone Community Church has remained an important center of worship, fellowship, and community life in Wayne County, including hosting the 9th Annual Convention of the Wayne County Women's Suffrage Group on June 17, 1910; and

WHEREAS, Protestant Methodists began renting the church in 1869 and purchased the building in 1883; later, the congregation became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1939, the United Methodist Church in 1968, and an independent congregation known as the Alton Cobblestone Community Church in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, the church has undergone numerous renovations and improvements, including sanctuary and kitchen beautification projects, vestibule enhancements designed by architect Carl F. Schmidt, and ongoing preservation efforts carried out by devoted members of the congregation and community volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The Alton Cobblestone Community Church has also benefited

from the generosity and dedication of faithful stewards across generations, including land donations by Edward C. Burns in 1956 and 1973 and the preservation of its historic bell mechanism through the skilled craftsmanship of a church member in 2009; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, the congregation celebrated the church's centennial with an elaborate observance, and in 2001, they commemorated its 150th Anniversary with numerous community events honoring the church's rich heritage and enduring legacy; and

WHEREAS, Today, affectionately known as the "Little Stone Church on the Hill," the Alton Cobblestone Community Church continues to welcome all who enter its doors while preserving the traditions, faith, and sense of community that have defined it for generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Alton Cobblestone Community Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Alton Cobblestone Community Church in Alton, New York.