Senate Resolution No. 2168

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 10th Anniversary of the Theater at Woodshill

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those cultural institutions and organizations whose commitment to promoting the richness and diversity of the arts and entertainment has contributed to the strength, vitality, and cultural enrichment of their communities and the great 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 10th Anniversary of the Theater at Woodshill; and

WHEREAS, The Theater at Woodshill is Central New York's premier non-profit organization dedicated to bringing first-rate theater and arts education opportunities to local audiences and students of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, With a deep-rooted belief that one's geography, wealth, and background should not pose a barrier to exceptional theater and arts education opportunities, Allen and Andrew Wilcox envisioned a new type of cultural institution for Central New York and founded the Theater at Woodshill in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Housed on a beautiful farm in upstate New York, The Theater at Woodshill is dedicated primarily to bringing to life the works of William Shakespeare; the company focuses on returning to the basics of theatrical production, an inclusive approach to casting, and an emphasis on leveraging its programming to contextualize plays in order to reinvigorate Shakespeare in our time; and

WHEREAS, The Theater at Woodshill is focused on providing educational opportunities for its community through workshops in acting, design, production, and dramaturgy; and

WHEREAS, Renowned for its educational opportunities, the Theater at Woodshill hosts a first-class film series known as "Will Power," which is shot by professional cinematographers and features a diverse cast of local CNY high school actors performing high-octane speeches by William Shakespeare; and

WHEREAS, The Theater at Woodshill boasts a valuable internship program open to CNY-based high school students and recent graduates interested in obtaining experience in professional theater; this exciting program offers aspiring theater professionals a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of Shakespearean theater and gain hands-on experience in a vibrant artistic community; and

WHEREAS, Guided by a distinguished board of directors, a hospitality and volunteering department, and an inspired creative team, the Theater

at Woodshill has served as a testament to the important connection between the arts and community, proving the undeniable impact that that relationship offers residents and visitors of Central New York and beyond; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Theater at Woodshill; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Allen and Andrew Wilcox, founders of the Theater at Woodshill.