

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of John F. Hughes Elementary School in Utica, New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those distinguished educational institutions which have demonstrated a sustained commitment to academic excellence, civic responsibility, and service to 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 100th Anniversary of John F. Hughes Elementary School in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1925, John F. Hughes Elementary School stands as one of the oldest continuously operating public schools in the City of Utica and the second oldest school building currently serving students in the Utica City School District; and

WHEREAS, Located in East Utica, one of the City's oldest immigrant neighborhoods, the school has for a century served generations of families who helped shape the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the Mohawk Valley; and

WHEREAS, During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, East Utica became home to many Italian immigrant families who came to the region seeking opportunity and employment in local factories and the railroad industry, and John F. Hughes Elementary School became a cornerstone of education, opportunity, and community life for those families and countless others; and

WHEREAS, Constructed in the architectural style characteristic of early 20th century urban neighborhood schools in New York State, the school was intentionally situated within walking distance of surrounding homes at a time before widespread school transportation became common practice; and

WHEREAS, The school proudly bears the name of John F. Hughes, an immigrant from North Wales who arrived in the United States in 1872 and became one of Utica's most respected civic and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hughes distinguished himself as a successful building contractor and founder of the American Hard Wall Plaster Company, while also dedicating himself to public service and civic advancement throughout the City of Utica; and

WHEREAS, As founding president of the Builders Exchange, director of the Utica Chamber of Commerce, and contributor to the drafting of the City's early building ordinances, John F. Hughes played a vital role in the development and modernization of Utica; and

WHEREAS, From 1896 until 1903, John F. Hughes served as commissioner of the Utica School Board, where he was widely credited with implementing major improvements and modernization efforts within the City's public school system; and

WHEREAS, For 100 years, John F. Hughes Elementary School has remained steadfast in its mission to provide its diverse student population with a high-quality education in a safe and orderly learning environment, ensuring that students develop the knowledge and competencies necessary to become college- and career-ready citizens; and

WHEREAS, The school continues to foster a vision of creating a safe and respectful community of learners in which educational accomplishments are acknowledged and rewarded, thereby inspiring future generations to achieve their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, The success and longevity of John F. Hughes Elementary School are due in large measure to the dedication of its administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, and community supporters, all of whom have contributed to its proud legacy over the past century; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of John F. Hughes Elementary School in Utica, New York, and to honor its enduring contributions to public education and community life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John F. Hughes Elementary School.