Assembly Resolution No. 1463

BY: M. of A. Woerner

COMMEMORATING the 60th Anniversary of Saratoga Performing Arts Center

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes great pride in recognizing and celebrating institutions of historical and cultural significance that have played an essential role in shaping our 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 60th Anniversary of Saratoga Performing Arts Center on Thursday, July 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) in Saratoga Springs, New York is a renowned outdoor amphitheater performance venue where the arts, nature, and community converge; and

WHEREAS, Nestled within the 2,400-acre Saratoga Spa State Park, SPAC is surrounded by hiking trails, geysers, and mineral springs, and has welcomed generations of artists and audiences to experience the magic of performance in harmony with the natural world; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, SPAC has blossomed into a year-round cultural home, expanding beyond the summer season with signature programming in dance, jazz, classical, and world music at the intimate Spa Little Theater, just steps from the iconic amphitheater; and

WHEREAS, With a main stage seating capacity of 25,000 people, the iconic amphitheater offers 5,200 sheltered seats and a sloping lawn to accommodate an additional 20,000 individuals who travel great distances to enjoy the world-renowned performances SPAC is known for hosting; and

WHEREAS, From the timeless artistry of its resident companies - New York City Ballet, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center - to the electrifying Saratoga Jazz Festival and concerts by Live Nation, SPAC has been a destination for lovers of art, culture, and beauty for six inspiring decades; and

WHEREAS, On June 16, 1966, Saratoga Performing Arts Center was dedicated by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, and on July 9, 1966, the New York City Ballet opened the amphitheater with a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; and

WHEREAS, In meaningful tribute to that first show 60 years ago, New York City Ballet will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" from July 8-11, 2026; and

WHEREAS, In further celebration of this incredible milestone, Philadelphia Orchestra Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nezet-Seguin will return to SPAC from August 5-22, 2026, to anchor the 60th Anniversary season with the return of the piece that opened the

Orchestra's first season at SPAC in 1966, Beethoven's iconic "Symphony No. 9"; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Orchestra's first performance at Saratoga Performing Arts Center on August 4, 1966, was conducted by Eugene Ormandy, who was instrumental in helping design SPAC's stage and in perfecting the acoustics of the venue; and

WHEREAS, Looking proudly toward its future, Saratoga Performing Arts Center has launched The Four Seasons Campaign - a $17.5 million initiative supporting the renovation of Spa Little Theater, artistic programming, education and community engagement, and the care of its campus - ensuring SPAC continues to inspire and connect for generations to come, through all four seasons of each exciting year; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated leadership, staff, and volunteers of Saratoga Performing Arts Center have worked unwaveringly to uphold its longstanding and glowing reputation, and together they have faithfully committed to ensuring the success and longevity of the venue, its renowned programming, and natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, For 60 years, Saratoga Performing Arts Center has served as a testament to the important connection between the arts and community, and this noble organization has proven the undeniable impact that that relationship offers residents and visitors of Saratoga Springs, New York and beyond; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Saratoga Performing Arts Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Saratoga Performing Arts Center.