Assembly Resolution No. 375

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

COMMEMORATING the 160th Anniversary of the Utica Maennerchor to be celebrated on May 3, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those vital organizations that foster community, preserve heritage, and enrich the cultural fabric 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 commemorate the 160th Anniversary of the Utica Maennerchor to be celebrated with a Banquet on Saturday, May 3, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1865, the Utica Maennerchor has, for 160 years, remained faithful to its chartered purpose "to promote German and American choral singing"; it stands today as a living testament to the vibrancy and perseverance of German-American culture in Central New York; and

WHEREAS, By the turn of the 20th century, Utica was home to nearly 3,700 German immigrants and thousands of their descendants; this dynamic community established a dozen churches, four schools, seventeen social organizations, and countless businesses, profoundly shaping the cultural and economic development of the city; and

WHEREAS, Between 1905 and 1916, Utica's German-American population sponsored a beloved annual German Day, drawing thousands of attendees from all backgrounds and celebrating the shared spirit of community; and

WHEREAS, While the First World War brought challenges to ethnic expression, the Utica Maennerchor endured, preserving not only music but also a treasured heritage that continues to unite generations; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Utica Maennerchor remains a vital institution with over 450 active members; it serves as a gathering place for people young and old, for singers, dancers, and friends; it is a place to learn, to share, to celebrate, and to build community through the enduring language of music and camaraderie; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, many of its members still speak German, continuing a legacy of linguistic and cultural continuity while welcoming all who value tradition, song, and friendship; and

WHEREAS, The Utica Maennerchor is one of the last surviving institutions established by the once-thriving German immigrant community of Utica, and stands as a proud symbol of cultural perseverance and intergenerational fellowship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 160th Anniversary of the Utica Maennerchor, and to applaud its enduring contributions to the cultural and social life of

the Mohawk Valley and the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Utica Maennerchor.