

2025-J495

Senate Resolution No. 495

BY: Senator ASHBY

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of Adirondack Studios on February 19, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those institutions and organizations whose commitment to promoting the richness and diversity of the arts and entertainment world 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 50th Anniversary of Adirondack Studios on February 19, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Adirondack Studios (ADKS) has provided award-winning creative solutions for designers, artists, producers and owners of entertainment and cultural destinations worldwide; with its background rooted in theatrical production, ADKS prioritizes storytelling and guest experience by examining thoughtful design approaches, innovative methods and materials and out-of-the-box thinking across the breadth of the project cycle; and

WHEREAS, On February 19, 1975, Christopher Detmer, Tom Lloyd, and Walter Blake incorporated Adirondack Scenic, relocating their Off-Broadway operations to a 5,000-square-foot garage on the Hudson

River in Warrensburg, New York; and

WHEREAS, As with most startups, the early years presented challenges, but partnerships with corporate giants (GE, Avon, Westinghouse), the opera world (Lake George, Philadelphia, NYC, Miami, Baltimore), rock 'n' roll tours (Talking Heads, The Rolling Stones, The Eagles, The Who), and live theater (The Acting Co., Empire St. Youth Theatre, MSG Productions) helped keep the business afloat; and

WHEREAS, By 1981, the team expanded into larger facilities in Glens Falls, New York, and growth accelerated from there, moving into ice shows, Las Vegas magic acts, and international special events; their expertise led them into the world of amusement parks, starting with Storytown USA, then Busch Gardens, followed by Universal Orlando and Six Flags; and

WHEREAS, As the team grew, the company moved to even larger facilities, ultimately settling in its current global headquarters in Argyle, New York; furthermore, as the world entered the new millennium, the value of leisure and experiential activities became more apparent, fueling Adirondack Studios' global expansion; and

WHEREAS, Today, with production facilities in Argyle, Orlando, and Dubai, a creative studio in Pasadena, and additional offices in Singapore and Shanghai, ADKS employs over 300 artisans, managers, and installers; and

WHEREAS, The company has designed, fabricated, and managed over 5,000 projects for some of the world's most prominent amusement and cultural attractions; its diverse client list includes industry giants such as Walt Disney Imagineering, Dubai Parks & Resorts, Genting, Google, Cedar Fair Entertainment, Carnival Cruise Lines, Disney

Theatrical on Broadway, Warner Bros., Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, One World Observatory, Meow Wolf, Christian Dior, Crayola, Dell, SONY, Wegmans, Brookfield Properties, San Francisco Opera, Metropolitan Opera, The Joffrey Ballet, Lincoln Center, National Geographic, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The National Comedy Center, and The Franklin Institute; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, ADKS projects reached an audience of over 350 million people globally, and many of these projects have garnered recognition within the global attractions industry; by March 2025, 26 ADKS projects will have received The Themed Entertainment Association's Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement, an honor considered the Oscar-equivalent in the field; additionally, Michael Blau, ADKS' current president, was named to Bloolooop's 2025 Theme Park Influencer List; and

WHEREAS, Adirondack Studios takes great pride in its commitment to both its employees and the local community; the company engages with over 1,000 students annually through tours, school visits, recruitment events, and internships, partnering with BOCES, ECCA, and SUNY Adirondack; and

WHEREAS, Adirondack Studios has also established scholarship funds at Warrensburg Central School and Argyle Central School in honor of Chris Detmer and Tom Lloyd's parents; several team members serve on regional civic and cultural boards, and the company is a major employer in the region, particularly for IATSE Local 524; and

WHEREAS, Through its six worldwide locations, Adirondack Studios has contributed nearly \$500 million to local economies; with its marketing tagline, "Make A Scene," Adirondack Studios continues to impact the region and the world, and looks forward to doing so for many decades to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Adirondack Studios on February 19, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Adirondack Studios.