

## 2009-J2950

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Auburn, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Auburn, New York, to be celebrated on September 20, 2009; and

WHEREAS, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church was founded on December 1, 1908; prior to that, the spiritual needs of the Auburn faithful were tended to by Hieromonk Arseny, Abbot of St. Tikhon Monastery; and

WHEREAS, The missionary work and incentive to organize was started by Very Rev. Alexander Hotovitsky (now St. Alexander, New-Martyr of Russia), Dean of the New York Cathedral, who came to Auburn on August 26, 1908, at the request of Thomas Garbinsky to perform funeral services for Mary Zanoviak; and

WHEREAS, On December 4, 1908, land was purchased on the corners of Cross and Cottage Streets by St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church; religious services were first held in a small house on the premises that had been remodeled into a chapel with Father Nicholas Duda appointed Priest-in-Charge; and

WHEREAS, The first permanent rector of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church was Father Joanniky Keyo (Kivko), who was appointed in March 1909, and permission was granted the following June by Archbishop Platon to build a church; and

WHEREAS, The cornerstone of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church was laid on November 25, 1909, and the completed church was dedicated in a minor form on June 21, 1910, and pontifically consecrated by Bishop Alexander (Nemolovsky) in 1912; and

WHEREAS, In addition to Thomas Garbinsky as President and Trustee, the

first board of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church included Basil Kimak, Joseph Pingryn, Gregory Maykovich, Halakton Melnick and George Brannick; membership in 1910 was 49 families, 34 single adults, 15 children ages seven and older and 69 children under age seven; and WHEREAS, After the return of numerous veterans following World War II, a program was undertaken to enlarge St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, which was completed in April 1947, and membership peaked in 1948, with a total of 785 including children; and WHEREAS, In the past 40 years much work has been done to beautify the interior of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church; large icons of the four Evangelists, St. Nicholas, and Christ Enthroned adorn the church proper, a large icon of the Theotokos adorns the ceiling in the Altar and life-sized icons of Church Fathers were added in 1987; and WHEREAS, Early rectors at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church included Father Dimitrius Kaminsky, Father Andrew Vanyush, Father Anthony Diachenko (1921-1935), and Father Basil Oranovsky; and WHEREAS, In 1938, Archpriest John Yanchisin was appointed rector, and he served with distinction as parish priest, and for many years, Dean of the New York State Deanery, until his passing away in 1962; and WHEREAS, Following this, rectors to serve St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church include Father John Kozak, Father George Cucura, Father Daniel Geeza, Father Vladimir Soroka, Father Eugene Tarris, Father John Lickwar and the current rector, Father Stephen Mack; and

WHEREAS, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Auburn, New York, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Auburn, New York.