

## 2009-J389

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Rome Rotary Club

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals and organizations that devote their energy, resources and thoughtful care to improving the quality and character of life in 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 90th Anniversary of the Rome Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, The world's first service club, Rotary International was founded on February 23, 1905, when lawyer Paul Harris and three friends met in a small office in downtown Chicago, and wanted to rekindle the spirit of friendliness that they had known in their hometowns in the turn-of-the-century city; and

WHEREAS, Word of the club soon spread and others were invited to join; they named their new club Rotary, to describe the practice of meeting in rotation at the members' various places of business; and

WHEREAS, Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders, that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, Records indicate that the Rome Rotary Club was conceived on the 24th day of October, 1919, on which date Messrs. Depard, Rathbun, Fraser, Train, and Clark came from Utica and addressed a meeting of interested Romans at the Rome Club; from this meeting grew an organization committee headed by Daniel W. Wardwell, which selected 25 men as charter members; and

WHEREAS, An organizational meeting was held on November 6, 1919, with

35 Utica Rotarians and twenty charter members of the proposed Rome Rotary Club being present; Officers and Directors were elected and on November 13th, the first luncheon meeting was held; this was featured by an inaugural address of President Weston Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, Weekly meetings followed with appropriate programs until January 9, 1920, when the charter was presented by Charles A. Miller, President of the Utica Rotary Club; a large number of Utica Rotarians were present as was District Governor Lidbury of Niagara Falls, Frank Weedon of Syracuse and Reverend George F. Dugan of Albany; the Club grew steadily in its membership and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, The Charter Members of the Rome Rotary Club were: Merton Barnes, A.R. Kessinger, Benjamin H. Beach, Arthur P. Knight, Lester C. Bush, Delos A. Lawton, Arthur F. Carpenter, Albert B. Norton, George G. Claribut, William J. Mullin, George A. Clyde, Sr., James P. Olney, Frank J. DeBisschop, George R. Staley, Herbert T. Dyett, Howard J. Teller, Louis T. Gregerson, Percy C. Thomas, Cassius H. Halsted, George W. Turney, John R. Harper, Daniel W. Wardwell, Weston Jenkins, Arthur D. White, and Frank J. Jewell; and

WHEREAS, The first major club project of the Rome Rotary Club was to initiate the Community Chest in the fall of 1920, and then the Birthday Fund to care for disabled children; the Rome Rotary Club's service to Rome continued throughout the years with various service projects; and

WHEREAS, On December 5, 1944 the Rome Rotary Club celebrated its 25th Anniversary; in keeping with its Rotary motto "Service Above Self", Rome Rotarians assisted in many charitable efforts in the Second Twenty-Five Years; in 1944, Rome Rotary held a very successful clothing drive for the United National Clothing Collection which was done in cooperation with the Kiwanis Club; another clothing drive was sponsored in 1948 for

Britain and Syria; in that particular year it shipped over 500 pounds of clothing; and

WHEREAS, During its Third Twenty-Five Years, the Rome Rotary Club was

instrumental in bringing The Gift of Life Program to its District; through this particular program, children from third world countries who are in need of lifesaving heart surgery are brought to the United States where they receive the needed surgery; since its inception in 1990, The Gift of Life Program has been able to offer critical medical assistance to 14 children from countries such as Russia, Mexico, Poland, The Dominican Republic, Ukraine, El Salvador and Jamaica; and

WHEREAS, Another highlight of the Rome Rotary Club was its 75th Anniversary celebration; over 525 Rotarians and guests attended, including District Governor Joseph McCarthy and Vice President of Rotary International Howard D. Vann; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor and commend the members of the Rome Rotary Club, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the community it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Rome Rotary Club; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Rome Rotary Club.