

2009-J2132

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Saint Joseph's Hospital Health Center upon its 140th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and honor those occasions when a community asset within our midst celebrates an important anniversary or milestone; and

WHEREAS, One such occasion is the 140th Anniversary of Saint Joseph's Hospital Health Center located in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, Saint Joseph's Hospital Health Center is a 431-bed comprehensive medical care institution dedicated to providing quality health care to the residents of 16 counties in Central New York; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph's can trace its roots back to its humble beginning in 1869 when five Sisters of St. Francis -- Sisters Mary Dominica Cummings, Mary Mechtildies Goggin, Mary Veronica Gosse, Mary Johanna Kaiser and Mary Hyacintha Eagan -- transformed a dance hall and saloon into the city's first hospital; and

WHEREAS, The 15-bed hospital opened its doors on May 6, 1869; still sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, the institution has evolved into a health care system that, in addition to the Hospital, includes a college of nursing, psychiatric emergency program and two outpatient surgery centers; and

WHEREAS, In addition to providing general medial surgical care, St. Joseph's offers several specialty services, including hemodialysis, maternity services, a separate birth center, emergency care, intensive care, dental services, suicide prevention, wound care and certified home health care; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph's also operates several satellite facilities, including family and maternal care centers, a dental office, psychiatric services center, The Wellness Place, Regional Dialysis Center, neighbor-

hood dialysis centers, the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, and a cardiopulmonary rehabilitation center; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph's inpatient admissions average more than 22,500 annually; outpatient visits throughout the St. Joseph's network number more than 517,000 a year and the Hospital's emergency department records more than 50,000 visits a year; and

WHEREAS, The Hospital's medical staff of more than 800 is comprised of physicians, dentists and midwives representing a broad spectrum of specialties; more than 200 clinical affiliates, including physician assistants and nurse practitioners, are credentialed to assist the medical staff; more than 3,000 other health care professionals and support personnel are employed, and more than 1,100 devoted volunteers and members of the Hospital's Auxiliary help support patient care programs; and

WHEREAS, Year after year, Saint Joseph's continues to thrive and provide the community with outstanding health care; in 2008 St. Joseph's again earned many accolades for its clinical and service excellence, including the Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the Consumer Choice No. 1 Award from the National Research Corp. for highest overall quality and image in the Syracuse area, and several high marks for cardiac, vascular and orthopedic excellence from HealthGrades; and

WHEREAS, Also in 2008, St. Joseph's implemented a "noise reduction" initiative throughout the hospital and achieved a 10 percent increase in patient satisfaction with regard to noise; for the third consecutive year, St. Joseph's Home Care was nationally recognized as an "Elite Home Care Agency" and one of the top 500 agencies in the nation; St. Joseph's was the first hospital in the United States to successfully

complete the MORE program improving the quality of obstetrical services; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph's has a strong record of patient satisfaction; in

2008 the Department of Health and Human Services' Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey showed that St. Joseph's overall average patient satisfaction score is higher than any Syracuse hospital and higher than the New York State average; and

WHEREAS, Each day, St. Joseph's strives to provide a higher level of care, and carry on its mission -- "We, the St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center family, inspired by the spirit of St. Francis, welcome with compassion and reverence all people. We dedicate ourselves to excellence as we care for the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of those we serve and with whom we work. We strive to be people of vision, responding with enthusiasm and integrity to the needs of all in an ever-changing health care environment. With an ongoing commitment to careful stewardship, we accept our sacred mission"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and pay tribute to Saint Joseph's Hospital Health Center upon the occasion of its 140th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Theodore M. Pasinski, President of Saint Joseph's Hospital Health Center.