

2009-J1439

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Meals on Wheels of Jamestown upon the occasion of its 40th Anniversary of service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State is reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Meals on Wheels of Jamestown upon the occasion of its 40th Anniversary of service; and

WHEREAS, For 40 years, Meals on Wheels of Jamestown has served the greater Jamestown area, working diligently to achieve its mission of providing well-balanced and nutritious meals to the home-bound, who might otherwise go hungry; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Jamestown and other senior nutrition programs can trace their origins to England during World War II when the Women's Volunteer Service for Civil Defense began preparing and delivering meals to displaced neighbors and canteens to servicemen; and

WHEREAS, Following the war, the idea spread to the United States when a home-delivered meal program was initiated in Philadelphia at the request of the Philadelphia Health and Welfare Council in January 1954; and

WHEREAS, Building on the model and success of the Philadelphia program, other home-delivered meal programs were undertaken in other American cities and the Meals on Wheels Association of America, now the oldest and largest organization in the United States representing those who provide such service to people in need, was established; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Jamestown began 40 years ago when it made deliveries to a handful of senior citizens in Jamestown, New York; thereby making the dream of Roland Taft, Vaughn Rudy, Harry Bloom, Russ Diethrick, and other community-minded leaders a reality; and

WHEREAS, John Alley, an active retiree from Local 338 UAW, served as the Director of Meals on Wheels of Jamestown; the city and the First Congregational Church generously provided space for the organization at 322 E. Fourth Street; and

WHEREAS, Roland Taft, executive director of Chautauqua Opportunities, served as the President of the Meals On Wheels' Advisory Board; joining him as officers were Reverend John Soneson of the Chandler Street Baptist Church, Mrs. Robert B. Carlson and Dr. James P.B. Goodell; and

WHEREAS, Within a short period of years, the number of clients increased, as did the number of meals served; during the next 35 years, the service area exploded to include more than half of Chautauqua County - both rural and urban areas - and hundreds of meal recipients; and

WHEREAS, Today, Meals on Wheels of Jamestown delivers five days a week, and provides meals covering all seven days each week; more than 100 volunteers help deliver meals each week; and

WHEREAS, During its 40 years of outstanding service, Meals on Wheels of Jamestown has served more than two million nourishing meals to thousands of home-bound seniors, people with disabilities, and others who otherwise might go hungry or be unable to remain independent in their homes; and

WHEREAS, On the auspicious occasion of its 40th Anniversary, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend Meals on Wheels of Jamestown for significantly enhancing the quality of life of those it

serves and to pay tribute to its volunteers, past and present, for their dedication and accomplishment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Meals on Wheels of Jamestown upon the occasion of its 40th Anni-

versary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Meals on Wheels of Jamestown.