

## 2009-K1196

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery upon the occasion of observing the 100th Anniversary of the death of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) on Saturday, April 24, 2010

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery upon the occasion of observing the 100th Anniversary of the death of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) on Saturday, April 24, 2010; and

WHEREAS, In his youth, Samuel Langhorne Clemens adopted the pen name of Mark Twain, picked up from his days on the Mississippi River; the term made reference to measuring the depth of the water to ensure it was deep enough for steamboat passage; and

WHEREAS, Born on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri, Mark Twain's ties to Elmira, New York, date back to the 1860s; he first met Elmira native Charles J. Langdon on a ship to Egypt and the Holy Land, and this meeting spawned a lifelong friendship; and

WHEREAS, In 1868, the Langdon Family invited Mr. Twain to their Elmira home, which once stood on the corner of Church and Main Streets; it was here where Mark Twain courted his future wife, Olivia Langdon; on February 2, 1870, Reverend Thomas K. Beecher wed the pair at the Langdon home; and

WHEREAS, For many years, the couple divided their time between Hartford, Connecticut and Elmira; Mark Twain's sister-in-law Susan Crane, and her husband, Theodore owned a farmhouse on one of Elmira's many surrounding hills; they called it Quarry Farm, and it was here that Mark

Twain and Olivia spent their summers for more than 20 years; and  
WHEREAS, In the summer of 1874, the Cranes presented Mark Twain with a  
unique octagonal study that sat on a knoll overlooking the valley; in  
this cozy setting he wrote many of his most famous works including: A  
TRAMP ABROAD, LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI, THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER,  
ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN, THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER, and A CONNEC-  
TICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT; and  
WHEREAS, In 1904, Mark Twain's beloved wife Olivia, died in Florence,  
Italy; he died on April 22, 1910, in Reading, Connecticut; Mark Twain  
was laid to rest in the Langdon family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery along-  
side his wife and children; and  
WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to  
the lives of those esteemed individuals of great renown who distin-  
guished themselves through their life's work; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to  
commend the Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery upon the occasion of observing  
the 100th Anniversary of the death of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark  
Twain) on Saturday, April 24, 2010; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-  
smitted to The Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery.