

## 2009-J5540

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary on May 29-30, 2010

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary to be celebrated at its Annual Czech and Slovak Festival on May 29-30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its distinguished history, Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden has been owned and managed by the Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of America; and

WHEREAS, Founded over 100 years ago, Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of America is comprised of members and volunteers committed to maintaining a home for Czechs and Slovaks and people of Czech and Slovak ancestry, in which the Czech and Slovak cultures may be taught and blended with American traditions and cultures; today, it consists of 250 members and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1800s many Czechs and Slovaks emigrated from Austria-Hungary, and made their way to America; many found a home in Astoria, Queens; in 1892, the Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society was formed, named after the medieval Kingdom of Bohemia; and

WHEREAS, Eighteen years later, in 1910, the Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of America began raising funds for a home for the Czech people in the local community; it was to be a haven where the traditions

of the homeland were to be maintained; and

WHEREAS, Two adjacent lots, part of a farm, were purchased, and on October 1, 1910 the cornerstone of Bohemian Hall was laid; it was built in three sections; what serves as the entrance today was the first hall, but it soon became obvious more space was needed; and

WHEREAS, The Sokol Gym or Main Hall was added, and in 1919 the outside Bar and Park were finished, just in time for prohibition, but Bohemian Hall survived and continues to carry the proud tradition into the new millennium; and

WHEREAS, The success of Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden is in direct correlation to the efforts of the members and volunteers of the Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of America, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the Society and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those organizations of true purpose and worthy accomplishment that provide opportunities to celebrate their rich ethnic flavor and which strive to preserve their cultural heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary on May 29-30, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden.