

## 2009-J5917

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the dedication of a Memorial Plaque honoring the 35 lighthouse keepers at Tibbetts Point Lighthouse since 1827

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 are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is also the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate significant events which represent turning points in our unique history and which are indelibly etched in the saga of our great Nation and to call attention to those historic sites within the State of New York which serve as lasting reminders of our rich and unique past; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the dedication of a Memorial Plaque honoring the 35 lighthouse keepers at Tibbetts Point Lighthouse since 1827; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated on Sunday, June 6, 2010, at the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse in Cape Vincent, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Tibbetts Point Lighthouse marks the point where Lake Ontario meets the St. Lawrence River in Northern New York State; and

WHEREAS, Captain John Tibbetts of Troy, New York, donated three acres of land to the Federal Government to establish the Lighthouse; in 1827 the first Tower and Keeper's Quarters were built; and

WHEREAS, In 1854 the first tower of the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse was replaced by the present circular one; the Fresnel Lens was also installed at this time; it is still in operation and is the only original working Fresnel lens in Lake Ontario; and

WHEREAS, A fog whistle was added to the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse in 1896; it was replaced with an air-diaphone in 1927, operated by a diesel engine with automatically timed blasts; and

WHEREAS, In 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard assumed the Tibbetts Point lighthouse duties until 1981 when the light was automated and serviced out of Oswego, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse quarters became a Youth Hostel; and

WHEREAS, The Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society was formed in 1988; the Town of Cape Vincent acquired the Lighthouse from the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1991, and the Visitors' Center was built by the Town of Cape Vincent in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Since 1999, the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Society has funded numerous major renovations inside and outside; and

WHEREAS, The very first lighthouse keeper at Tibbetts Point was appointed by President John Quincy Adams; all keepers were members of the U.S. Lighthouse Service until 1939; and

WHEREAS, Judah Williams was the first Tibbetts Point lighthouse keeper and Edward Sweet was the last civilian light tender; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the memory of the 35 lighthouse keepers at Tibbetts Point Lighthouse since 1827; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when events of such historic significance are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the dedication of a Memorial Plaque honoring the 35 lighthouse keepers at Tibbetts Point Lighthouse since 1827; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joseph Dudek, President, Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical

Society, Cape Vincent, New York.