

2009-K1539

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Travis, New York, upon the occasion of hosting its 100th Annual Independence Day Parade on Sunday, July 4, 2010

WHEREAS, Our proud tradition of celebrating the birth of our Nation on July 4, 1776, is not only a tribute to our rich history, but a reflection of our living commitment to the exercise of freedom, a legacy which rings through the ages and touches every citizen throughout the land of liberty; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Travis, New York, upon the occasion of hosting its 100th Annual Independence Day Parade on Sunday, July 4, 2010; and

WHEREAS, This year's Grand Marshal is Janice Blanchard who is also the Chairman of the Travis 4th of July Celebration Committee; and

WHEREAS, Nestled in the marshes of Staten Island's West Shore is a small town, a hamlet, called Travis; originally known as Travisville, the town was named for Colonel Jacob Travis who resided here before the Civil War; the town went through several name changes throughout the years before officially becoming Travis again sometime between 1920 and 1930; and

WHEREAS, During the American Revolution, 9,000 English troops landed on Staten Island; a contingent of Loyalist troops was camped in Travis, which was then known as New Blazing Star; it was here on August 22, 1777, that a major skirmish on Staten Island between General George Washington's Patriots and General William Howe's Loyalists was fought; and

WHEREAS, In the year 1819, the site of this battle of the Revolutionary War, at the terminus of the Richmond Turnpike (later given the commemorative name of Victory Boulevard) became the New Blazing Star Ferry; during this time, the town become one of the most important points of travel in the country; stagecoaches and mail-wagons traveled through the village of New Blazing Star to the ferry, which crossed the Arthur Kill and landed in Carteret, New Jersey where the coaches then continued on their route to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, In 1873, the town became the home of the American Linoleum Manufacturing Company - the first factory of its kind in the United States; in 1882, the company became one of the first users of electricity when it installed electric lights to facilitate work at night; by 1900, the plant employed 700 workers and 3,000 people called Linoleumville their home; and

WHEREAS, The community of Travis refuses to let its history die; it is seen at its best each year on the Fourth of July when it hosts one of the oldest, consecutive Independence Day celebrations in the United States; the spirit of community of Travis can be easily defined by the three "P's": Pride, Patriotism and Perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Since the parade's inception in 1911, participants have marched down Victory Boulevard from Cannon Avenue to Glen Street in the community's annual Independence Day parade; and

WHEREAS, Since its beginning in 1911, the Travis Fourth of July Parade has seen only minor change; the 1912 baseball games between the "bloomer-girls" and the "bloomer-boys" are gone, but then again so is Arco Park - the field where those games were played; however, giant red, white and blue decorations still adorn the streets as well as the character that distinguishes the town; and

WHEREAS, The Travis community is a survivor of a long gone era; despite the physical intrusions of modern times into its life, Travis

still boasts the qualities of the American Pioneer; it is in those qualities that one finds the charm of Travis; and

WHEREAS, The treasured values of families' united and wholesome entertainment for all ages reflected in this event help to foster community spirit and cooperation, as well as preserve the beliefs, ideals and values for which our forefathers declared the independence of these United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to most joyously commend Travis, New York, upon the occasion of hosting its 100th Annual Independence Day Parade, fully confident that such procedure mirrors our shared commitment to preserve, to enhance and yet effect the patrimony of freedom which is our American heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Travis, New York.