

## 2011-J1570

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Heritage Ministries

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize and celebrate the long histories and dedicated service of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is to fulfill the needs of the citizenry and communities of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Heritage Ministries, located in Jamestown, New York; and

WHEREAS, Heritage Ministries began its important role as a provider of services to the people of Chautauqua County with the establishment of "The Orphanage and Home of the Free Methodist Church," an orphanage and home for older adults in 1886; and

WHEREAS, In 1901, a new building specifically for senior citizens was built; this facility was expanded over the next several years to better meet the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Education for orphanage children was offered beginning in 1903; the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church officially recognized "The Orphanage and Home" as an accredited institution in 1907; the day school was operated until 1955; and

WHEREAS, In 1909, the organization officially changed its name to "The Gerry Homes," by which it was known until 2002; the mission of The Gerry Homes, adopted in 1959, was "to establish, operate and maintain a home for aged persons; to establish, operate and maintain a home for the destitute, abandoned, neglected and dependent children"; and

WHEREAS, The Gerry Homes discontinued services at its Children's Home in 1965, due to changes in policies and government regulations creating foster care; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1967, The Gerry Homes changed its approach to care for retirees on one campus, including a nursing home, congregate living, apartments and cottage-style homes, creating a continuing care retirement community; the Heritage Village Health Care Center opened on the campus in 1971; and

WHEREAS, The Gerry Homes again expanded in 1995 with two health care centers in the Jamestown area, Heritage Park and Heritage Green; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, The Gerry Homes expanded into South Carolina, serving senior citizens in independent living homes and apartments, assisted living apartments and in a 40-bed health care center; and

WHEREAS, Heritage Park Health Care Center began renovations and an upgrade to its facilities in 2001, while the Heritage Green Health Care Center broke ground for a new wing, which included new beds, a multi-purpose auditorium, chapel, and suites for occupational and physical therapy; and

WHEREAS, With the opening of its Heritage House Childcare and Learning Center in 2002, The Gerry Homes once again provided a critical service for children in Chautauqua County, serving 50 children between the ages of six weeks and five years in a nontraditional childcare center; and

WHEREAS, The Gerry Center changed its name to "The Heritage Group" in 2002, to better reflect the services provided to individuals and families through its human service ministries; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Heritage Green Health Care Center opened its Outpatient Therapy Clinic; in addition, as the organization's focus of care in nursing homes shifted toward short-term rehabilitation and skilled nursing services, it replaced "Health Care Center" with "Rehab and Skilled Nursing" for its programs; and

WHEREAS, The name of the organization was once again changed in 2008, to the current "Heritage Ministries" when ownership was transferred to the not-for-profit organization Heritage Village Rehab & Skilled Nursing, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and honor milestones in the history of organizations that provide critical social services to their communities in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Heritage Ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Heritage Ministries.