

2011-J2523

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those illustrious journalistic entities which have diligently and consistently, year after year, recorded the history of their communities and brought local news and news of the larger world to their readers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES; and

WHEREAS, Known today as the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES, this illustrious newspaper was established on April 22, 1861, as the WATERTOWN DAILY REFORMER by Beman Brockway and partner, Lotus Ingalls; and

WHEREAS, The newspaper continued as the WATERTOWN DAILY REFORMER throughout the Civil War, then changed its name to the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES in January of 1870; Beman Brockway eventually became sole owner, forming the Brockway Co.; and

WHEREAS, Twelve years later, Harold Bowtell Johnson was hired by the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES as a reporter; in 1911, he purchased stock in the Brockway Co.; over the next eight years, he advanced from vice president of the corporation to managing editor, and then editor of the paper and president of the Brockway Co.; in 1933, he became publisher; and

WHEREAS, When Harold Johnson died unexpectedly in May of 1949, John B. Johnson became the editor and publisher of the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, John Johnson orchestrated an expansion of the printing plant on Arcade Street, giving the paper the ability to print a 40-page issue, increasing by eight pages the previous capacity; and

WHEREAS, The name Brockway disappeared in December 1977, when a new name, Johnson Newspaper Corp., was adopted; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s the company expanded its newspaper holdings, first buying the BATAVIA DAILY NEWS; over the next decade, the company acquired the CARTHAGE REPUBLICAN-TRIBUNE, the MALONE TELEGRAM, the CATSKILL DAILY MAIL, the GREENE COUNTY NEWS, the LOWVILLE JOURNAL & REPUBLICAN and 10 newspapers of the former Park Newspapers in St. Lawrence and Columbia counties; and

WHEREAS, The WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES inaugurated its Sunday issue on September 28, 1986, and broke away from its traditional evening paper on September 30, 2002, introducing a daily morning paper; and

WHEREAS, Today, the company is guided by John B. Johnson, Jr. as chairman and chief executive officer and his brother, Harold B. Johnson II, as president and chief operating officer; they succeeded their father after his death in May 2001; and

WHEREAS, With the widening of print news coverage throughout the North Country, the company has taken on yet a newer name, Northern New York Newspapers Corp.; and

WHEREAS, The WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES covers the news of the North Country including Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence and Franklin counties; throughout its history, the newspaper has been one of the main generators of local news for the region; and

WHEREAS, For over a century, this prominent newspaper has been a powerful tool in documenting the social, political, religious, cultural, artistic, business and literary histories and events for the community of Watertown and its surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, The unbridled success of the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES is a direct result of its dedicated staff, who work diligently to provide

quality journalism, top-notch production and service on behalf of their readers; and

WHEREAS, Our newspapers provide a tremendous service to citizens

across the State of New York by keeping them informed about current events; the democracy of our State and Nation is strengthened by a responsible citizenry which is actively engaged in reading and kept abreast of news affecting their lives; and

WHEREAS, As the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES moves into the future, it carries with it the legacy of a distinguished journalistic history and an outstanding record of growth and achievement; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES.