

2011-J5593

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Lewis of Lewis, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Lewis of Lewis, New York, to be celebrated during the weekend of July 28 and 29, 2012 with a number of activities commemorating the Bicentennial of the church; and

WHEREAS, The First Congregational Church of Lewis is the oldest Congregational Church in northeastern New York State and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places during the Town of Lewis's Bicentennial in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Perched on a knoll overlooking the hamlet, the church has proudly welcomed visitors to the town for two centuries; the First Congregational Church of Lewis was established on June 12, 1812 when Reverend Cyrus Comstock met with a handful of people at the home of Dr. Alexander Morse in Elizabethtown for the purpose of organizing a full time Congregational Church in Lewis; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Comstock is known as the father of Congregationalism in Essex County and as the inventor of the Comstock wagon; although like many institutions, the First Congregational Church of Lewis has experienced many ups and downs during the course of its proud history, its members have persevered to keep the doors open; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Frederick Shaw has served both the First Congregational Church of Lewis and the United Church of Christ in Elizabethtown, New York for more than 20 years and holds the distinction of being the longest tenured minister at either church; and

WHEREAS, The First Congregational Church holds worship services each

Sunday and Sunday school is provided for any interested child from the area; and

WHEREAS, The First Congregational Church of Lewis stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Lewis, New York, fully confident this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the First Congregational Church of Lewis, Lewis, New York.