

2013-J2788

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 125th Anniversary of The Fountainhead Group

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 who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of The Fountainhead Group, to be celebrated on August 29, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The event will showcase the company's products in a large conference room that is in the process of serving as venue for the permanent display of the milestones in its 125-year life; Fountainhead Group Owner and CEO John Romano, was the catalyst and the inspiration for the book SMITH - ROMANO: MAKING IT HAPPEN, a 125th anniversary history, written by local author and historian Malio J. Cardarelli; and

WHEREAS, Located on Garden Street in Utica, New York, and formerly known as D. B. Smith & Co., The Fountainhead Group is the manufacturer as well as the distributor of all types of plastic sprayers, foggers, and the resilient Indian Fire Pump made of metal for worldwide distribution; and

WHEREAS, Asked about the company, John Romano mentioned that it began with the vision of a farmer, D. B. Smith, born in Deerfield in the mid 19th century; because of his occupation, D. B. Smith learned what farmers needed to make their work easier and more productive; and

WHEREAS, D. B. Smith invented a variety of farming tools, some of which were quite large and complicated; one particular device, made of

metal, revolutionized how insecticides and other materials were spread for home and garden use, and his was the first in the world to do so, which explains why it was sought after nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, After the death of D. B. Smith, three of his five sons, Alfred, Myron, and Golden, ably took over operation of the business; in 1973, it was sold to F. Eugene Romano, a well-known local businessman, and he introduced another first-in-the-world concept, plastic instead of metal sprayers, which changed the entire industry; and

WHEREAS, With Eugene Romano so involved with his other investments, his son, John, led the D. B. Smith part of his father's operation; John mentioned that after a devastating 40,000 unit recall in 1980, D. B. Smith & Co. faltered but never failed, and in just a few years, with a variety of innovative company initiatives, it was able to increase business tenfold; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, the name of the company was changed to The Fountainhead Group, but continued to market some of its sprayers under the D. B. Smith name; brands such as Black Flag, Roundup, Pump 'N Go, Burgess, and Decks & More are names under which Fountainhead Sprayers are sold, and before that, sprayers were marketed primarily under the name of the company that manufactured them; and

WHEREAS, John Romano purchased the company from his father in 2001, and since that time he has increased manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution, adjusting the size of the New York Mills facility alone to 180,000 square feet, and employing as many as 200 workers; in addition, The Fountainhead Group's variety of brand-name sprayers, foggers, and backpacks lead all other competitors worldwide in sales; and

WHEREAS, Fountainhead-manufactured products can be found on the shelves of major retailers of such products throughout the nation including Lowe's, Home Depot, and Wal-Mart; the Pump 'N Go Sprayer, designed and manufactured in New York Mills, has become a sensation

nationally; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, The Fountainhead Group's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

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

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Romano, Owner and CEO, The Fountainhead Group.