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LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 115th Anniversary of W.H. Richardson obtaining a patent for the Baby Buggy

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in acknowledging esteemed residents who have distinguished themselves in their profession; the late W.H. Richardson is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 115th Anniversary of W.H. Richardson obtaining a patent for the Baby Buggy; and

WHEREAS, On June 18, 1899, W. H. Richardson, an African American, walked into the Baltimore patent office and patented the Baby Buggy, changing baby carriages and the lives of countless mothers to come forever; it was his idea to use a special joint to allow the bassinet to be turned to face the operator; and

WHEREAS, It was then, W.H. Richardson created the first reversible baby carriage; and

WHEREAS, W.H. Richardson was born in Freetown, Cortland County on December 15, 1835, and was educated in the common schools and graduated at the esteemed Groton Academy; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 25, he married Miss Ellen Van Nortwick, daughter of William Van Nortwick, and together they had one son, Clarke H. Richardson; and

WHEREAS, In 1863, he bought part of the Van Nortwick estate, and three years later, bought what was known as the Palmer Drake property of 68 acres, which adjoined his property, having a total of approximately 150 acres; and

WHEREAS, In 1875, W.H. Richardson established coal, lime, lumber and agricultural implements businesses; in addition, he was a buyer and shipper of produce; and

WHEREAS, The late W.H. Richardson, one of the oldest merchants in his town, took an active interest in temperance, educational and religious matters, and was recognized as an independent, conservative citizen of sterling worth and high integrity; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 115th Anniversary of W. H. Richardson obtaining a patent for the Baby Buggy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the ancestors of W.H. Richardson.