

2013-K1443

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Boice Brothers Dairy Farm in Kingston, New York

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry is part of the foundation upon which our distinct American heritage is built; New York State and the entire United States are dependent on our agricultural industry for a variety of food products; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the milestones of those families which substantially contribute to the economic vitality of their communities and the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Boice Brothers Dairy Farm in Kingston and Ulster, New York, to be celebrated on Sunday, July 20, 2014, at its benefit bash along Kingston's waterfront, titled "Across the Generations"; and

WHEREAS, New York State's oldest family-owned and operated dairy farm, Boice Brothers Dairy Farm was founded in 1914 by Harriet and Pratt Boice; their business provides Hudson Valley retailers with fresh hormone and antibiotic free dairy products, and sells ice cream cakes to an enthusiastic and loyal community at their O'Neil Street, Kingston, store; and

WHEREAS, With the help of their six children, they were able to grow their business to a substantial regional asset, providing residents with fresh dairy products; and

WHEREAS, In 1935, raw milk arrived at the Boice Brothers Dairy Farm in 40-quart cans, which were then covered with canvas can covers to keep the milk cold; and

WHEREAS, To meet the needs of their expanding endeavor, the Boice

family hired dozens of loyal employees over generations, such as Ralph Wosley, who came to the farm after World War II and remained with the business until he retired in 1979; and

WHEREAS, By this time, the dairy farm was growing and Boice Brothers acquired the former Zwick and Swartz Produce building, the current home of Boice Brothers Dairy; and

WHEREAS, The Boices have remained committed to keeping their business a family affair and to this day the Dairy is owned and operated by third and fourth generation descendants of Harriet and Pratt Boice; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, with the help of many local leaders and private citizens alike, a ribbon-cutting took place for the grand opening of the Milk House, to expand their operations and make their quality ice cream directly available to residents of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, Boice Brothers Dairy partnered with Adirondack Creamery in 2006, a small New York State operated ice cream producer, and provides fresh ingredients to the Creamery that uses them in their old-fashioned and boutique ice cream recipes; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Boice Brothers Dairy was recognized as "Small Business of the Year" by the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce and the Ulster County Development Corporation for their immense contributions to the local economy, upstanding business practices and community service efforts; and

WHEREAS, Boice Brothers Dairy continuously reinvests in the Hudson Valley economy by only purchasing dairy ingredients from local farms and those that are part of the Hudson Valley Fresh Dairy Farmer Partnership and distributing their products to local grocers; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to promoting the welfare of the local community, the Boice family hosts the annual Happy Christmas Fund radio-thon sponsored by WGHQ Radio at Boice's Milk House where local leaders take over the airwaves for ten hours to raise money for needy families in the area; and

WHEREAS, Their efforts in the 2013 fundraiser raised significant donations that were dispersed to the needy so that they could buy food, gifts, and other items to happily celebrate the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, To further grow their prospering business, and in observance of June Dairy Month, the grandchildren of Helen and Dick Boice hand out free samples of milk to the community at key locations; and

WHEREAS, During the celebrations at the "Across the Generations" benefit bash on Sunday, July 20, 2014, there will also be a charity fundraiser for the Hudson River Stewards Program which will focus on creating interactive learning experiences for elementary school children in the Hudson Valley, and this program in particular will educate and inspire the next generation about the importance of the Hudson River in our everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, At this same event, the Dairy will attempt to make their way into the Guinness Book of Records by creating the largest ice cream sundae in the world; and

WHEREAS, Today, Boices Dairy is known in Ulster County and throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley for serving the freshest and creamiest soft ice cream that people travel from across the Hudson Valley and Catskills region to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges the success of this exceptional family and their economic and charitable contributions to Ulster County, the Hudson Valley and New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Boice Brothers Dairy Farm in Kingston, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rich Boice, General Manager and President, Boice Brothers Dairy Farm.