

2015-J65

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Polish American Cultural Association of Port Washington on November 22, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York 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 80th Anniversary of the Polish American Cultural Association of Port Washington, celebrated with a Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Polish American Cultural Association (PACA) was founded on December 1, 1933, and received its charter in March of 1934; like other ethnic groups in a new land, the Polish people sought comfort and reassurance among their own people; and

WHEREAS, Originally called the Polish Immigrants Society, the members held their first meeting at 11 Orchard Street, Port Washington, in what was then a bakery; its purpose was to develop community pride and promote their cultural heritage through holiday gatherings, lectures and concerts, ethnic exhibits, as well as classical and Polish American musical entertainment; and

WHEREAS, In addition, assistance was available in applying for American citizenship or with immigration proceedings; translators were also available when needed; and

WHEREAS, Eight decades later, PACA continues to be actively involved in functions benefiting the Polish American, as well as a wider community; benefits are held for the PIP, cancer organizations, church func-

tions, PWEF, Moving-Up Day for the Middle School, Battle of the Bands fundraisers for medical equipment, an Annual Children's Christmas Party, and the building continues to serve as a district polling place for local elections; and

WHEREAS, One of the organizations most successful social events is its Annual Miss Polonia Pageant, where young ladies of Polish descent compete for the honor of representing Nassau County at an annual banquet at the Marriott Hotel in New York City, followed by the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City on the first Sunday in October; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, under the luminous direction of its President, Irene Wierzbicki, PACA offers scholarships to senior students of Polish descent entering college each fall; and

WHEREAS, Today, many of the descendants of those early Polish immigrants still live in Port Washington, and they continue to keep the proud spirit alive; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor and commend the members of the Polish American Cultural Association of Port Washington, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the community it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Polish American Cultural Association of Port Washington on November 22, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Polish American Cultural Association of Port Washington, New York.