

## 2015-J260

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Utica Maennerchor on January 5, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations and individuals who 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 150th Anniversary of the Utica Maennerchor celebrated on Monday, January 5, 2015, in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Utica Maennerchor began in January of 1865, when a small group of 13 German settlers came together at the Bierbauer Brewery in West Utica to create an organization with the purpose of promoting German and American choral singing; and

WHEREAS, The Chorus of the Utica Maennerchor made its first public appearance at the Steuben Lodge in April 1865; one week later, the group sang as President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train stopped at the Utica Train Station on its way to his burial in Springfield, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, During the late 1800s and early 1900s, this esteemed musical institution grew quickly due to the high number of German immigrants who came to Utica seeking work in the many local textile mills; and

WHEREAS, The German-American community and the Utica Maennerchor became an essential part of the rich cultural heritage of the Mohawk Valley; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the Utica Maennerchor's remarkable history, it has carried on a tradition of musical excellence, winning numerous competitions and earning recognition for its longevity and choral skill; and

WHEREAS, One of the last surviving institutions established by a vibrant German immigrant population in the United States, the Utica Maennerchor proudly carries on the traditions started by its founders and the many German settlers and their descendants who have sung in its choirs; it will continue to foster German traditions, friendship and community for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those organizations whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Utica Maennerchor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Utica Maennerchor.