

## 2015-K98

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Utica on March 20, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals and organizations that devote their energy, resources and thoughtful care to improving the quality and character of life in their communities; 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 the Rotary Club of Utica to be feted at its Centennial Celebration on March 20, 2015, at the Twin Ponds Golf and Country Club, New York Mills, New York; and

WHEREAS, The world's first service club, Rotary International was founded on February 23, 1905, when Paul Harris, a native of Vermont, found himself a stranger in the city of Chicago; he conceived the idea of inviting three men of different vocations to join him weekly for fellowship and to discuss each other's problems and business; and

WHEREAS, Today, Rotary International has grown into an organization including over 1.2 million members in 29,000 clubs across 163 countries; each club is made up of business and professional leaders who are dedicated to humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help to build peace and goodwill throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, In 1914, Utica, New York natives, Frank Despard, George Evans, Burr Tibbitts, and Charles G. Palmer started a Luncheon Club; after learning about Rotary International, they chartered their own Club with 104 men on March 12, 1915, at The Hotel Utica, where they continued to meet for 57 years; and

WHEREAS, At this first meeting, Seymour Hart was selected as the

Temporary Chairman, a position he held for three years; under his leadership, the Club funded both a dental and an orthopedic clinic for the residents of Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1915, the Rotary Club of Utica participated in a "telephone spectacular" wherein the Club members heard a human voice transmitted from more than 3,000 miles; in addition, a Utica vs. Syracuse Rotary baseball game garnered funds for the Baby Welfare Fund and additional monies were donated to the Playground Association; and

WHEREAS, During World War I, the Rotary Club of Utica purchased Liberty Bonds and participated in American Legion parades and War Savings Stamps programs; and

WHEREAS, Rotary Club of Utica was instrumental in the founding of Utica Kiwanis, Zonta Club, Exchange Club, and the Rotary Club of Rome, which was the first of 13 Rotary Clubs sponsored by the Utica club; and

WHEREAS, From its inception, the Rotary Club of Utica has been a proponent of the welfare of area children; the Club built a hospital unit at Camp Healthmore on Lake Moraine, provided a central building for the Girl Scouts camp, created an organization called Boys Work dealing with delinquency and truants, addressed high school students on the value of education and local job opportunities, and was instrumental in forming what is now known as the Boys' Club of Utica; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 1920s the Rotary Club of Utica continued their emphasis on children, becoming active in Scouting, establishing a Father and Son banquet for newsboys, hosting Christmas parties, counseling young parolees, and working with other service organizations in a helping hands program of after-school jobs, character building, athletics, parties, trips, parental consultations, and physical education; and

WHEREAS, Recently, the Rotary Club of Utica has sponsored a reading program and built a courtyard at Columbus School, and provided table tennis equipment to the House of the Good Shepherd; the Club also supports annual Christmas parties along with The Arc, and assists with

Habitat for Humanity projects; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Rotary Club of Utica works with the City of Utica Summer Breakfast program at Adrean Terrace by serving breakfast to low income students, sponsored the It's A Zoo program in area schools allowing students to write and act in their original productions and win a trip, built a gazebo at the Utica Zoo, and conducts an annual fishing derby for disadvantaged youth; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Rotary Club of Utica is actively involved in providing funding to The Rotary International Foundation to assist with the effort to eradicate polio around the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor and commend the members of the Rotary Club of Utica, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the community it serves by perpetuating its motto of Service Above Self; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Utica on March 20, 2015; and be it further

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