

2015-J609

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Don Divens upon the occasion of his retirement after 37 years of distinguished service as Highway Superintendent for the Town of Hornby

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Don Divens upon the occasion of his retirement after 37 years of distinguished service as Highway Superintendent for the Town of Hornby; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his superlative work ethics, the Town of Hornby will be dedicating the Town Highway Building in his honor on Friday, March 6, 2015; and

WHEREAS, For the past 37 years, Don Divens rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Town of Hornby Highway Department serving as Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong native of Hornby, New York, located in Steuben County, Don Divens was raised on his family's small dairy farm; he was educated for two years in a one-room schoolhouse until 1957, when he was sent to Painted Post; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating high school at the age of 17, Don Divens worked on the family farm until it was sold in 1966; he went on to become a construction equipment operator; and

WHEREAS, Before he began his illustrious career with the Town of Hornby, Don Divens worked on the construction of a high-end apartment complex in Irwin, New York, in 1970; after completion, he took over maintenance and grounds for the complex until 1978; and

WHEREAS, Don Divens' entry into highway work came via his activity in

the Fire Department; in 1978, he was elected to the esteemed position of Highway Superintendent for the Town of Hornby, promising better service, and improvements to the roads; and

WHEREAS, As Superintendent, Don Divens was instrumental in building a new Town Hall in 2007; in addition, Hornby now has approximately 42 miles of gravel, and 20 lane miles which are paved; his goal was to pave one mile and recondition another mile each year; and

WHEREAS, Under Don Divens able leadership, the Hornby Town Board purchased new equipment and began organizing plow routes which has allowed him and his crew to accomplish several projects that were once a struggle to complete; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Don Divens teamed up with the nearby Town of Campbell Highway Department Superintendent to apply for funding, and combine those funds for equipment which both towns needed and could share; thus, the beginning of shared services with Campbell began with crews from each town working on construction projects together; and

WHEREAS, According to historical records available from the New York State Association of Towns, New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, and other organizations, Don Divens, at the time of his retirement, is believed to have been the longest-serving Town Highway Superintendent in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Officially retired on September 30, 2014, Don Divens' interest in repairing multi-trade, small equipment is likely to grow into a second career; and

WHEREAS, Don Divens, a faithful member of his church, was also the 2005 champion of street stock car racing at the Woodhall Raceway; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Highway Superintendent, Don Divens served with loyalty, honor and distinction, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Don Divens was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Don Divens upon the occasion of his retirement after 37 years of distinguished service to the Town of Hornby; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Don Divens.