

2015-K298

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge No. 321, Order Sons of Italy in America

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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge No. 321, Order Sons of Italy in America; and

WHEREAS, The Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) encourages the maintenance of Italian culture and language, as well as the assimilation into American social and political life; it has sponsored a wide variety of programs in furtherance of its mission, as well as countless Italian heritage events; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization was established in New York City on June 22, 1905, by Vincenzo Sellara, M.D., and a small group of other professionals; for more than a century, the Order Sons of Italy and its many local Lodges have been of service to the Italian American community throughout New York State and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, In 1915, in the City of Schenectady, there were three Sons of Italy Lodges: the Gabriele D'Annunzio, Oltre Oceano and the Pieta D'Amore; on March 21, 1920, the Gabriel D'Annunzio and Oltre Oceano lodges merged and its charter of incorporation became the Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge No. 321; and

WHEREAS, The subscribers to this original lodge charter were Carmine LaMaida, Leopold Mancuso, and Albino Ruscitti, along with 14 other members; and

WHEREAS, During its humble beginnings, lodge meetings were held at numerous locations throughout the City including Redmon's Hall on Ferry Street and the Marconi Center on Park Place; 415 Liberty Street became its singular meeting place in 1948, and was officially purchased on October 13, 1956; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 1965, a proposed plan for the expansion of Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge was approved and passed to meet the growing membership; the grand opening celebration of Columbus Hall took place on February 25-26, 1967, with a ribbon cutting ceremony; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, the membership of the Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge elected its first woman President, Frances White, who served two terms; and

WHEREAS, The building at 415 Liberty Street was sold in October of 2006, and its present location on Hamburg Street in the Town of Rotterdam was purchased in March of the following year; and

WHEREAS, Today, after 100 years of invaluable service to its community, the Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge continues to support countless local and state charities including, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, Alzheimer's Foundation, Coaches vs. Cancer, Arthritis Foundation, Gift of Sight, America's Vet Dogs Program, Boys & Girls Town, Breast Cancer Foundation, Disaster Relief Fund and the National Bone Marrow Registry, as well as numerous local scholarships; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge No. 321, Order Sons of Italy in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge No. 321, Order Sons of Italy in America.