

2015-J1228

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Cornell University upon the occasion of celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its Charter as the Land-Grant University of the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this Legislative Body to acknowledge events of historic and far-reaching importance to the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those educational institutions that make exemplary contributions through teaching, research, and service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend

Cornell University upon the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of its Charter as the Land-Grant University of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary sesquicentennial will be observed with a Charter Day Weekend Celebration to be held April 24-27, 2015, in Ithaca, and will include a formal procession and ceremony on April 27th, the date of the 1865 Charter of Cornell University; and

WHEREAS, In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Land Grant Act, milestone legislation that would promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in each state of the nation; and

WHEREAS, In 1865, State Senators Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dixon White secured passage of the bill that chartered Cornell University as the land-grant educational institution for New York State, where Ezra Cornell's vision that any person can find instruction in any study would become a reality; and

WHEREAS, On April 27, 1865, New York State Governor Reuben E. Fenton, in his chambers in the old State Capitol in Albany, signed the bill that

constitutes the Charter of Cornell University; and

WHEREAS, The Charter defined the land-grant mission of Cornell University, with its special responsibility for research and outreach, and set the stage for generations of Cornellians to help transform lives; and

WHEREAS, On October 7, 1868, Cornell University opened, and, during its inaugural celebration at the Cornell Library in the Village of Ithaca, New York State Lieutenant Governor Stewart L. Woodford administered the oath of office to President Andrew Dixon White and presented him with the Charter; and

WHEREAS, Cornell University has become one of the world's finest educational institutions, whose teaching and research are joined by a remarkable extension of the benefits of knowledge throughout New York State and around the globe; and

WHEREAS, The alumni of Cornell University, today numbering over 235,000 worldwide and 63,000 in New York State, have tremendous impact on society and individual lives, in accordance with the University's mission; and

WHEREAS, Cornell Cooperative Extension enhances the social well-being, ecological sustainability, and economic vitality of New York State's communities by offering a broad range of programs, including youth development through 4-H, and, in 2013, providing 1.1 million volunteer hours and serving 1.4 million residents participating in their programs; and

WHEREAS, In the City of New York, Weill Cornell Medical College is devoted to providing patient care, and both Weill Cornell Medical College and Cornell Tech are committed to educating students and engaging in research and collaborations for the betterment of the City, the State, and the world; and

WHEREAS, Under the direction of President David J. Skorton, the Cornell University community can reflect on its first 15 decades with great pride, and can look forward to an exciting and rewarding future

inspired by its founding vision of innovative thinking, leadership in education, and the responsibility to make a difference in people's lives; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this Legislative Body extend its highest commendation to Cornell University for its dedication since 1865 to fulfilling its land-grant mission of service to the people of this great Empire State, and its exceptional contributions of real and enduring value toward creating a better world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the heritage and the continued excellence of Cornell University upon the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of its Charter as the Land-Grant University of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to David J. Skorton, President, Cornell University.