

2015-J1229

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the North Merrick Library

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the North Merrick Library; and

WHEREAS, In the 1940s, efforts by the Merrick Library to establish a more convenient branch for the residents of northern Merrick did not come to fruition due to a lack of patronage; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950s, even though many civic groups supported the move, two more attempts to found a library in North Merrick were unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, On November 21, 1964, the proposition was finally passed by a margin of nearly 3 to 1, hereafter, the community of North Merrick had their own library; and

WHEREAS, On December 5, 1965, the North Merrick Library officially opened its doors to the public in a storefront at 1148 Merrick Avenue; on October 3, 1966, the library moved into its current location at the former Meadowbrook School; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Linda Vasconi joined the library staff; today, she is the longest-serving employee of the North Merrick Library; she started out dusting bookshelves and later learned to work the circulation desk, handle public relations, help decorate the facility, and assist with programs and events; and

WHEREAS, A witness to the library's evolution over the decades, Linda Vasconi has truly embraced changes brought along by technology; the library's inclusion of videos, computers, e-readers, tablets, and streaming devices has ensured that young people keep coming to the library; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Director Tom Witt, the North Merrick Library has many activities planned to observe this milestone, culminating in a celebration on October 3, 2016; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2014, the North Merrick Library reflected on its first five decades and filmed interviews with residents and staff members for an oral history project; and

WHEREAS, Five decades later, the North Merrick Library offers a world of information and educational and recreational services, envisioned by its founders, to residents of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, The North Merrick Library has truly become the center of its community; it is a place to meet formally or informally, to study and conduct research, and to develop job searching skills, as well as to learn and be entertained through a myriad of services that were unimaginable 50 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the North Merrick Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the North Merrick Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Director Tom Witt, North Merrick Library.