

2015-J1664

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Kingston High School to be celebrated on April 18-19, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of this noble Empire State; 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 Kingston High School celebrated with a special weekend event on April 18-19, 2015; this auspicious occasion will feature numerous programs, including the momentous groundbreaking of the new Kingston High School building; and

WHEREAS, Kingston High School first opened its doors on September 7, 1915, when rival schools, Kingston Academy and Ulster Academy, merged to form one united high school in a grand neo-classical style campus centrally located across from City Hall in the City of Kingston; and

WHEREAS, This new building encompassed several amenities including: basement locker rooms, a cafeteria, auditorium with space for the entire student body, an electronic bell system which automatically signaled the end of one period and the beginning of the next, study halls and a full service library; and

WHEREAS, The 800 students of the inaugural class at Kingston High School were provided with a comprehensive curriculum, including: English, math, science, history, industrial arts, art and design and physical education; and

WHEREAS, Even in its early years, Kingston High School offered the most expansive sports programs and social organizations in Ulster Coun-

ty; there were baseball, football and basketball teams as well as 10 different student clubs, such as debating society and a noted theatre group; and

WHEREAS, Many of the sports teams, particularly those with female participation, originated as intramural offerings that were not established as official athletic programs until 1971 when volleyball, softball, basketball, track, tennis and gymnastics were added; today, there are 16 girls and 18 boys varsity teams that continue to attain Section and Conference Titles, break state records and develop students into successful collegiate athletes; and

WHEREAS, The Maroon, Kingston High School's Year Book Committee, was formed in 1915 and continues to be one of the most important student body groups; from a photograph of the boy's Midget Basketball Team in 1918, to the most recent snapshots of the 100th Anniversary Parade held on the first day of classes in 2014, this publication embodies the bond and school spirit of students, faculty and community; and

WHEREAS, In the High School's inaugural year, Hazel Toole became the first May Queen, marking the beginning of a 100-year tradition known as the May Day festival; this event brings together scholars, educators and parents in the Kate Walton Field House to celebrate the Spring season, and especially acts as a recognition and farewell ceremony for the Senior Class; and

WHEREAS, With the leadership of two faculty members, Agnes Scott Smith and Clarence M. Dumm, Kingston High students established the first school newspaper called DAME RUMOR in 1932; the periodical, now referred to as HIGHLIGHTS, symbolizes one of over 50 student organizations that live on today; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, several other clubs were established including: Hiking Club, Chess Club, Harvard Model United Nations and Math Team, to name a few; one of the most prominent of these organizations was the National Honor Society, formed in 1939, and which continues to

recognize and extend membership to individuals for their scholarship, service, leadership and character; and

WHEREAS, In 1917, the Kingston High School Alma Mater was written and composed by then students, Olga Vanslyke Owen and Miriam Pitts; this original composition continues to be the official school song today; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed educational institution has greatly developed over the years, and has been guided by outstanding leadership from Charles Moulton in 1915, to the longest tenured Principal, Dan Allen, to the current leader, Principal Kirk Reinhardt along with many professional administrators, noteworthy scholars and teachers and a loyal and effective team of support staff; and

WHEREAS, Over the years many upgrades and renovations have been made to the School, the first of which was the construction of the manual training or vocational building in 1929 which housed auto mechanic shops, electrical workstations, chemistry labs, agricultural courses and homemaking classes; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, the Kate Walton Field House was constructed on the campus, and provided students with a larger, updated gymnasium; later, in 1978, the largest-scale construction project also added a competition-size swimming pool to the Field House, the Salzmänn Building, adding the Myron J. Michael building to the campus, along with pedestrian bridges to connect each of the High School's facilities; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of IBM in Ulster County in 1955 created significant employment opportunities and spurred great population growth in Kingston, prompting the addition of J. Watson Bailey and M. Clifford Miller Middle Schools; many Kingston High School graduates were able to find employment at IBM and go on to successful careers at the company due in large part to the technical programs offered at Kingston High; and

WHEREAS, The famous Wall which marks the perimeter of the school, became the physical dividing line of school jurisdiction for students; this landmark represented many different things for scholars over the

past 100 years; it began as a place to socialize, later became a refuge for students between and after classes and now, though used less frequently as a gathering place right before or after the school day, continues to serve as an important landmark of the entire campus; and WHEREAS, Since the first class in 1915, several high-achieving and

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brilliant minds have passed through the halls of Kingston High School; graduates, ranging from military commanders, industrial entrepreneurs and educators, are able to attribute much of their early successes to the teachers, curriculum and support of Kingston High School and the greater Kingston community; and

WHEREAS, Sherman Hasbrouck (Class of 1916), Frederick Anderson (Class of 1923) and Edwin Messinger (Class of 1924) went on from Kingston High to West Point Academy, and later became dedicated and successful servicemen in the United States Army; General Hasbrouck and Major General Anderson both served in World War II and among them were posthumously honored with the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit and Legion of Honor; Lieutenant General Messinger served our country in the Korean War and was recognized vehemently with the Army Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars and two Distinguished Service Crosses; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Sherwood Flemming (Class of 1922) went on to be one of the most noteworthy graduates of Kingston High School, a former Secre-

tary of the office of Health, Education and Welfare, Flemming, himself an educator, served 10 Presidential administrations and is widely known for his vast innovation in the area of federal policy, his work in developing the Social Security System and is considered the Father of Universal Health Care, Medicaid and Medicare; Arthur Flemming was an active participant in the Kingston High School debate club and a stellar reporter for DAME RUMOR during his time as a student; he later achieved a Juris Doctor from George Washington University and served passionately

in several leadership roles for the U.S. Civil Service Commission, War Manpower Commission, Office of Defense Mobilization, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Commission on Aging and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; and

WHEREAS, There have been several successful and well-respected faculty and administrative staff members who have made it their mission to educate and shape young minds at the high school; Kate Walton fulfilled the roles of Math teacher, Attendance Record-keeper and School Disciplinarian and is remembered to as a tough, but fair woman who served with the utmost integrity and guided students on a path to success both in character and academics; and

WHEREAS, Warren Kias, who served as Athletic Director for Kingston High School from 1946 to 1964, is the most winning coach in school history; he developed comprehensive and successful sports programs, that, under his direct leadership, achieved 15 Basketball Championships, five Baseball Titles, two Football Crowns and several Track and Field Championships; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past century, Kingston High School has truly lived up to its mission of educating, inspiring and graduating students who excel in both academics and character; indeed, it has empowered over 42,000 graduates to reach their maximum potential as leaders and productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, The groundbreaking for the new Kingston High School complex will symbolize the community's pride and dedication to continue the long-standing tradition of educational excellence and preparation of students to meet the academic and technological challenges of the future; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is very pleased to have this opportunity to salute Kingston High School for its long history of purposeful endeavor which has greatly benefited the community of Kingston, New York, and to wish this worthy educational institution continued success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Kingston High School to be celebrated on April 18-19, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kingston High School Principal Kirk Reinhardt; Ms. Anna Brett, Co-Chair of the Kingston High School 100th Anniversary Committee; and Yazmine Aziz, President of the Kingston High School Student Government.