

2015-J2381

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the return of the 123rd Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry to Salem, New York, and the rest of Washington County on July 1, 1865

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate those events of historical significance which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the return of the 123rd Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry to Salem, New York, and the rest of Washington County on July 1, 1865, shortly after the end of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The 123rd Regiment Civil War Commemorative Committee, sponsored by the Town of Salem, New York, is planning a series of events to take place throughout 2015, in commemoration of this auspicious occasion; and

WHEREAS, The 123rd Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry (NYVI), organized in Salem, was known as the Washington County regiment, and volunteers from the towns were organized into 10 companies; and

WHEREAS, On April 12, 1861, when the rebel guns fired on Fort Sumter, Salem men and others from southern Washington County were quick to enlist in the Twenty-second Infantry, fighting at the second Battle of Bull Run and other early battles; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Solomon Russell of Salem mustered the Second Cavalry in Salem on September 7, 1861; when this cavalry company retired unexpectedly in 1862, its members re-enlisted with other regiments, and Colonel Russell joined his nephew, Lieutenant David Allen Russell, to serve with General Phillip Sheridan in the 6th Corps; and

WHEREAS, The 123rd Regiment NYVI came into being in 1862, when Presi-

dent Lincoln called for more recruits; Salem and the rest of Washington County responded, and by September 5, 1862, a group of prominent citizens had recruited a county regiment with Salem's Colonel Archibald McDougall as its leader; and

WHEREAS, The 123rd Regiment was housed in barracks at Salem's Camp Washington on the Vail Street village grounds until boarding the train at the site of Delaware and Hudson Railroad depot on September 5; the 950 man strong Regiment, as it boarded the special troop train for Washington, was cheered on by thousands of well-wishers; and

WHEREAS, The regiment was made up of volunteers from the towns of Greenwich, Co. A; Kingsbury, Co. B; Whitehall, Co. C; Fort Ann, Putnam and Dresden, Co. D; Hartford and Hebron, Co. E; Argyle, Co. F; White Creek and Jackson, Co. G; Salem, Co. H; Cambridge and Easton, Co. I; Granville and Hampton, Co. K; and

WHEREAS, The 123rd Regiment NYVI was first assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 12th Corps, Army of the Potomac and later to the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Corps, Army of the Cumberland; the engagements in which the 123rd Regiment took part as listed on the 123rd Regiment monument at Gettysburg are Chancellorsville, Kulp's Farm, Gettysburg, Chattahoochie River, Rasaca, Dallas, Atlanta, New Hope Church, Monthieth's Swamp, Lost Mountain, Cassville, Kennesaw Mountain, Savanna, Pine Hill, Peach Tree Creek, Bentonsville, Averysborough, Moccasin Swamp, and Raleigh; and

WHEREAS, The 123rd Regiment returned home with two officers and 40 enlisted men killed in action; of wounds received in action, four officers and 28 enlisted men; of disease and other causes, 95 enlisted men; totaling 169; six officers and 163 enlisted men; and

WHEREAS, In 1869, a large Standing Soldier Civil War statue, sculpted by Martin Milmore, was dedicated in memory of all volunteers who fought in the Civil War; the statue, found in Salem's Evergreen Cemetery, memorializes the Civil War veterans, including the bodies of Colonel Archi-

bald McDougall, Regiment Commander who on June 23, 1864, died from wounds at the Battle of Dallas, and Brevetted General David Allen Russell, 6th Corps, who died on September 19, 1864, in action at Winchester; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those organizations and individuals which seek to bring recognition to historical events within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the 123rd Regiment Civil War Commemorative Committee, which has worked to bring proper attention to an event and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the return of the 123rd Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry to Salem, New York, and the rest of Washington County on July 1, 1865; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the 123rd Regiment Civil War Commemorative Committee.