

2015-K635

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Duanesburg, New York

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great 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 250th Anniversary of the Town of Duanesburg, in Schenectady County, New York; and

WHEREAS, Duanesburg derives its name from its founder, The Honorable James Duane, of New York City, a respected jurist and influential New York Delegate to both sessions of the Continental Congress; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Judge James Duane was appointed Mayor of New York City, and in 1788, was elected as a member of the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, In pre-Colonial days, the rolling hills of Duanesburg served as hunting grounds for Mohawk Indians from settlements along the Mohawk River and Schoharie Creek; in 1764, Judge James Duane acquired a total of 20,000 acres of land in the wilderness west of Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 1765, the Colonial Council created the Town of Duanesburg, which was comprised of 42,000 acres within its boundaries; Judge James Duane worked hard to populate his town, vying with numerous competing 18th Century land developers; and

WHEREAS, For most of its first century, the Town of Duanesburg was a sleepy farming community; however, by the middle of the 19th Century, the railroad made its way through the heart of the town; and

WHEREAS, By 1907, the Town of Duanesburg had become an important rail-

way center, boasting the largest coaling station in the world, located in the Village of Delanson; the community was named after the railroad, Delaware and Hudson; and

WHEREAS, With United States Route 20 (Western Turnpike), the Nation's longest highway, cutting through town, the automobile brought the world to the Town of Duanesburg's door in the first half of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of Supervisor Roger Tidball, the Town of Duanesburg remains a characteristically rural area; with the advent of Interstate 88, Duanesburg has become a bedroom community for the Tri-city area of Schenectady, Albany and Troy; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Duanesburg's present layout remains much the same as it was throughout the 19th Century, large farmsteads with hamlets and villages at major thoroughfares; and

WHEREAS, Of the eight historic byways, four communities remain intact of significant historic concentrations of properties, the Village of Delanson, the larger hamlets of Quaker Street and Mariaville, and the small hamlet of Eatons Corners; and

WHEREAS, These areas contain important and broad ranges of architectural styles, including pre-Federal, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne/Eastlake and Colonial Revival; the Town of Duanesburg contains 643 structures identified as historic by New York State, 55 cemeteries and 15 natural sites of interest; and

WHEREAS, Remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Town of Duanesburg of Schenectady County continues its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens, ensuring a positive business, institutional and educational climate, and providing all essential services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Duanesburg, New York, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the

life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Roger Tidball, Town Supervisor, Duanesburg, New York.