

2015-J2542

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Pavilion United Methodist Church of Pavilion, New York, celebrated on May 3, 2015

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Pavilion United Methodist Church of Pavilion, New York, celebrated on Sunday, May 3, 2015, at the Pavilion Fire Hall; in attendance were three former pastors, The Reverend William Reeder, The Reverend Wilbur W. Pollock, and The Reverend Christopher Wylie who helped to celebrate the rich history of the Pavilion United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event included a hymn sing, a worship service, dinner, a program featuring Methodist District Superintendent Ted Anderson, and a presentation by congregant Howard Wellman, as well as special music by the choir, sung from a late-1800s hymn book; and

WHEREAS, In 1815, the Methodist Episcopal Society, now known as the Pavilion United Methodist Church, was organized in an old brick school-house about a mile and a half south of the village of Pavilion; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 1829, the congregation voted to become an incorporated religious society to be known as The First Methodist Church in the Town of Covington; by 1833, it had grown enough to warrant erecting a meeting house at Sprague's Corners, now known as Taylors Corners; as the congregation grew, the building was moved to the south side of Elli-

cott Street; and

WHEREAS, At that time, men and women entered the Church by separate doors; and women sat on one side of the church with the children, while the men sat on the opposite side; and

WHEREAS, When a hymn was sung, the congregation stood and turned their backs to the minister to face the choir at the back of the Church; since musical instruments were considered improper in a Church, a pitch pipe was blown by the choir master; during the pastorate of the Reverend Hiram May from 1852-1853, a melodeon was purchased to lead congregational singing; and

WHEREAS, Extensive renovations were made to the Church from 1881-1882, including raising the floor, making the vestibule into a parlor, and adding a kitchen; most notable, however, was adding a 106-foot spire to the roof; and

WHEREAS, During the winter of 1925-1926, a meeting was called to discuss a site for building a new Church; after numerous discussion, the location chosen was known as the Lewis-Paterson site at the corner of routes 19 and 63; and

WHEREAS, The church bell was hung in the new belfry on January 26, 1927, and today, still beckons people to worship as it has for 133 years; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the Pavilion United Methodist Church has hosted many activities for the community, including both goose and turkey suppers, and minstrel/variety shows; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, the Church let the Pavilion Historical Society use the old parsonage for use as a museum and a public library; in 2003, the members of the Pavilion United Methodist Church provided space for a nursery school until the public school took it over, and organized a

community food pantry, as a joint ministry with Mary Immaculate Parish; and

WHEREAS, After 200 years, the Pavilion United Methodist Church remains

a vital asset to the residents of Pavilion; it provides a meeting place for several clubs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of The Reverend Wilson Jones, the Pavilion United Methodist Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Pavilion United Methodist Church, observed on May 3, 2015, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Wilson Jones, Pavilion United Methodist Church.