

## 2015-J2981

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Owego Kiwanis Club

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those fraternal organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Owego Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time; and

WHEREAS, The six permanent objects of Kiwanis international are to: give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life; encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships; promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards; develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship; provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities; and cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill; and

WHEREAS, The first Kiwanis Club in the New York district was chartered on May 1, 1916, in Rochester; its first president was attorney George F. Hixson who served for two years, the only person to do so; and

WHEREAS, During George F. Hixson's tenure, the Kiwanis Club became an international organization by chartering a club in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; he played key roles in the early years of Kiwanis while the

organization was transformed from a commercial to a community service organization; and

WHEREAS, Eight of the first 25 Kiwanis Clubs in the world were formed in New York State from 1916 to 1919 including New York City, Buffalo, Albany, Troy, Binghamton, and Schenectady, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, The Kiwanis Club was three years old when the New York District was organized September 27, 1918, in Syracuse at a convention which had 37 delegates in attendance; at this time, Clarence A. Nelson of Utica, New York, was elected as the district's first governor; and

WHEREAS, The second convention held on September 25, 1919, in Elmira, New York, was attended by only seven Kiwanians; due to the rapid growth of the organization, 455 Kiwanians attended the third district convention in 1920, which took place in Utica; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of co-Presidents Beth and Mark Johnson, the Owego Kiwanis Club supports numerous local organizations including Owego Little League, Owego Teener League, Owego Gymnastics, Owego Boys & Girls Club, Camp Ahwaga, Ti-Ahwaga Players, Waterman Center, and Kamp Kiwanis, as well as Link To Life; and

WHEREAS, Organizations of singular distinction such as the Owego Kiwanis Club provide a model for enhancing the quality of life in the community and, as such, merit the grateful praise of the community of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Owego Kiwanis Club; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Beth and Mark Johnson, co-Presidents, Owego Kiwanis Club.