

2015-J3038

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Visiting Nurse Association of Utica and Oneida County on June 30, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; 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 the Visiting Nurse Association of Utica and Oneida County, to be celebrated on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, in the Soggs Room at St. Luke's Home Center for Rehabilitation and Continuing Care Services, Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 1915, the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Utica and Oneida County has been caring for the community's healthcare needs in the comfort of patient's homes and neighborhoods; for the past Century, this vital organization has cared for hundreds of thousands of patients; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1912, a small group of women from Utica, New York, met to discuss what they could do about the alarmingly high infant death rate in their community; these remarkable women formed the Baby Welfare Committee of Utica in an effort to reduce the number of infant deaths by opening fresh milk and health stations; and

WHEREAS, On June 15, 1915, the Baby Welfare Committee of Utica incorporated and the earliest roots of the present-day VNA of Utica and Oneida County were planted; and

WHEREAS, Home visits by nurses were an important part of the outreach provided to young mothers; thousands of home visits were made the first

year, including visits to every baby born in Utica soon after their birth; as the years went by, the committee identified other medical concerns it could address, such as infantile paralysis, typhoid fever and smallpox; and

WHEREAS, In 1947, Utica's Public Health Department assumed responsibility for both maternal and child health services, which led to a reorganization; subsequently, on September 30th of that year, the organization officially became the Visiting Nurse Association of Utica, Inc., and exclusively provided bedside nursing; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the VNA began to add more services, including Meals on Wheels, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and training programs for home health aides; and

WHEREAS, Following the creation of Medicaid and Medicare Programs in July of 1965, the VNA of Utica became a Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) approved through New York State, qualified to provide services to this new patient population; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1977, the present-day VNA of Utica and Oneida County was created when New York State approved the organization to serve all of Oneida County; and

WHEREAS, At the turn of the century, the VNA of Utica and Oneida County affiliated with Mohawk Valley Network, the parent organization of Faxton St. Luke's Healthcare (FSLH); and

WHEREAS, As a part of a combined healthcare system, in 2002, the VNA of Utica and Oneida County was able to offer the remote patient monitoring service, TeleHealth, and became accredited through the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) in 2005; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, FSLH received a grant from New York State to improve long-term and community-based services for Oneida County residents; for

the first time, all of FSLH's home care service entities would be housed in a single facility in order to streamline and improve the delivery of services; in January of 2013, the Center for Rehabilitation and Continu-

ing Care Services opened on the St. Luke's Campus; and

WHEREAS, Today, the VNA of Utica and Oneida County serves nearly 2,200 patients, and in 2014, they made more than 63,000 home visits, with more than 21,000 TeleHealth patient transmissions and assessments; and

WHEREAS, The VNA of Utica and Oneida County provides patients living in Oneida County with compassionate care and resources specially selected by a team of physicians, case managers, and therapists; and

WHEREAS, Whether a patient is recovering from surgery or needs help managing a chronic illness, the agency offers and helps coordinate numerous services such as advanced wound care, case management, chronic disease management, high-tech home IV therapy, home health aides, home TeleHealth technology, and medical social workers, as well as various therapies, including physical, occupational, speech, respiratory and nutritional; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Visiting Nurse Association of Utica and Oneida County on June 30, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Visiting Nurse Association of Utica and Oneida County.