

2015-J4557

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 120th Anniversary of the Riverhead Free Library on April 2, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the Riverhead Free Library to be celebrated on Saturday, April 2, 2016; and

WHEREAS, For 120 years, the Riverhead Free Library has strived to inform, enrich and empower every person in its community by promoting easy access to a vast array of ideas and information and by supporting an informed citizenry, lifelong learning and a love of reading, to recognize changes that occur in society and to adapt these changes to the delivery of people-oriented library services; and

WHEREAS, Begun in the 1870s, as a subscription library, the Riverhead Free Library was chartered on April 4, 1896, by New York State so community residents and property owners of the Riverhead Central School District in the Towns of Riverhead, Southampton and Brookhaven could borrow books free of charge; and

WHEREAS, The Riverhead Free Library existed for many years in the Reading Room of the Riverhead Savings Bank Building, various storefronts and the Roanoke Avenue School, until the land at 330 Court Street was donated by Clara and Alice Perkins in 1958; and

WHEREAS, On January 27, 1964, the Riverhead Free Library moved into its new home on Court Street; in 1981, the original 9,000 square foot

building was expanded to 19,000 square feet, and the most recent addition, to 30,400 square feet, was completed in July of 2000; and

WHEREAS, Today, only the carriage house, or Yellow Barn, as it has come to be called, remains lovingly restored as an important part of the library's history; through the years the Friends of the Library have used the Yellow Barn for their popular book sales; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of President, Kathy Berezny, the Riverhead Free Library is governed and guided by an elected Board of Trustees composed of nine community members; the trustees serve as the liaison between the library and the public, establishing policies which are responsive to the community's needs; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Riverhead Free Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the Riverhead Free Library on April 2, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kathy Berezny, President, Riverhead Free Library.