

2015-J4664

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Ty Llwyd Farm upon the occasion of being named a Historic Site by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the preservation of historical landmarks which served to enhance the growth of the State of New York, ensuring that the complete history of our State and Nation is shared with present and future generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Ty Llwyd Farm in Riverhead, New York, upon the occasion of being named an Historic Site by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; and

WHEREAS, Ty Llwyd Farm, formerly called Harrison Downs House and Farm, was one of 19 landmarks that Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently identified as helping define what it means to be a New Yorker; and

WHEREAS, A national designation is expected to soon follow New York's designation; historic sites can qualify for matching grants and state and federal rehabilitation tax credits; and

WHEREAS, The 37-acre farm's history exemplifies the arduous nature of farming and the area's transition from raising potatoes; today, it is certified to sell raw milk produced by a herd of Jersey cows, as well as free-range eggs and organic vegetables; and

WHEREAS, Richard Wines, whose brother, David Wines, runs the farm with his Welsh wife, Elizabeth, and son, Christopher, grew up nearby and worked on the farm as a youth; currently, he chairs the Riverhead Landmarks Preservation Committee, and last year, wrote the application for the state designation; and

WHEREAS, In 1871, Richard Wines' great-great-great-uncle, Joshua Harrison Downs, a New York City patent lawyer, bought the land for a gentleman's farm; a native of Riverhead, New York, he graduated from

Yale and earned a law degree from Columbia University; and
WHEREAS, Ty Llwyd Farm is comprised of a two-story, shingle-clad home which features rooms with 10-foot ceilings on both floors, and a ball-room on the second floor as well as many historic buildings which still stand on the property, including the main English-style barn; and
WHEREAS, Joshua Harrison Downs' choice of the 1873 Italianate-style, derived from that nation's square, flat-roofed country villas, might have been influenced by his travels abroad; and
WHEREAS, After Joshua Harrison Downs died in 1912, his heirs converted it to a working farm, relying on potatoes, an often volatile crop; and
WHEREAS, According to a journal written by his grandmother, Mary Downs, the family bought cars and tractors when potato prices were high, but needed a mortgage when they fell; in lean times, Mary had to raise money by selling baked goods at Iron Pier Beach in Riverhead, New York; and
WHEREAS, New York State's agricultural industry is part of the foundation upon which our distinct American heritage is built; is a significant local resource that represents Riverhead's agrarian past and important farming legacy; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Ty Llwyd Farm upon the occasion of it being named a Historic Site by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ty Llwyd Farm, Riverhead, New York.