

2015-J4857

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo on July 3, 2016

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 100th Anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo to be celebrated on Sunday, July 3, 2016; and

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

WHEREAS, The six permanent objectives 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, For a Century, the dedicated men and women of the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo have served the Western New York community by serving the children of the world; and

WHEREAS, On May 1, 1916, the first Kiwanis Club in the New York

district was chartered in Rochester, New York; its first president was attorney George F. Hixson who served for two years, the only person to do so; and

WHEREAS, In that same month, George F. Hixson, and Albert Dodge, the future charter President of the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo, participated in the first national Kiwanis meeting in May of 1916 in Cleveland, Ohio, along with members of new Kiwanis Clubs from many other cities such as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Detroit, Michigan; of the 15 clubs represented at the convention, seven were from New York: Rochester, Lockport, Buffalo, Syracuse, Utica, Albany and New York; and

WHEREAS, At that meeting George F. Hixson was elected as the first President of Kiwanis, and Albert Dodge was chosen as the national organization's first Secretary; 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, Since its Secretary was from Buffalo, the headquarters of Kiwanis International was located in the City for the first four years of its existence; in addition, the first KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL magazine was edited in Buffalo, and printed in Rochester; and

WHEREAS, Albert Dodge served as Vice President of Kiwanis International in 1919; in that capacity, he chaired the Kiwanis Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, which was a key event in the organization's development; in 1920, Albert held the title of New York District Governor; and

WHEREAS, In 1923, the District Governor of Kiwanis, Lew Mitchell of Buffalo, drafted the original Six Objectives of Kiwanis, which were approved at the Kiwanis International Convention one year later; today, these tenets continue to serve as the guiding statement for today's

Kiwanians; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of President, Rudi Rain-
er, the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo continues to assist children with intel-
lectual disabilities; this vital organization sponsors numerous programs
such as the Niagara Frontier Camp Kiwanis, the Aktion Club, Gliding
Stars, and the Occupational Training Center and School 84; and

WHEREAS, The Aktion Club provides adults with disabilities an opportu-
nity to develop initiative and leadership, to serve and be included as
active participants in their community and to demonstrate the dignity
and value of citizens living with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Annually, over 50 children with intellectual disabilities
from the city of Buffalo and the entire Western New York region are able
to enjoy a week of fun in the sun and making new friends at Niagara
Frontier Camp Kiwanis, located a Cradle Beach in Angola, New York; for
seven days, campers enjoy a variety of activities including arts and
crafts, nature walks, swimming, picnics, and campfires as well as a
talent show; and

WHEREAS, Gliding Stars is an unique skating experience created for
children with developmental disabilities; with special adaptive devices,
these children are able to skate on ice and learn social skills and
about the value of teamwork; at the end of the season, the kids partic-
ipate in the Ice Extravaganza Performance; and

WHEREAS, A community-based Special Education Program, Occupational
Training Center and School 84 provides services to children with devel-
opmental disabilities by preparing them to function successfully within
a variety of community environments; and

WHEREAS, Part of the Niagara Frontier South Division, the Kiwanis Club
of Buffalo also helps young people through its volunteer work with
Salvation Army, Cornerstone Manor, Hertel North Park Youth Baseball
League, Key Club/Circle K, and the Parent Network of WNY; and

WHEREAS, A shelter for women and children, Cornerstone Manor is part
of the Buffalo City Mission offering freedom from social, physical and

spiritual poverty by providing a secure shelter, food and clothing and a Christ-centered resident recovery program; and

WHEREAS, The Hertel North Park Youth Baseball League offers children the opportunity to play on a baseball team at Shoshone Park; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis Club of Buffalo also sponsors Key Club/Circle K,

.SO DOC S R4857 RESO TEXT 2015

youth groups in high school and college which provide service to their communities; and

WHEREAS, The Parent Network of WNY provides financial support for childcare for over 50 families while the parents are in training sessions to learn parenting skills for their children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, The Club also assists the Salvation Army with their renowned Toy Drive and procures monetary contributions for underprivileged children in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, The Kiwanis Club of Buffalo has provided significant funding to The Women's and Children's Hospital Pediatric Trauma Center which provides state-of-the-art treatment to pediatric and adolescent patients; and

WHEREAS, Since 1990, the Ruth A. Jantz Memorial Scholarship Fund has been awarded to academically qualified and financially in-need students who have given back to their community; physically challenged students with disabilities are given special consideration; and

WHEREAS, Organizations of singular distinction such as the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo 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 100th Anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo on July 3, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Rudi Rainer, President, Kiwanis Club of Buffalo.