

2015-J4832

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Cambridge, New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Cambridge in Saratoga County, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1866, the tiny hamlets of Cambridge and North White Creek joined together and the Village of Cambridge, New York, was incorporated; about one-third of the Village is located in the Town of Cambridge, and two-thirds in the Town of White Creek; and

WHEREAS, Prior to 1855, the Village of Cambridge was a quiet rural community; the Village's major employer, and second-largest seed company in the Nation, was the Jerome B. Rice Seed Company, developed by Civil War veteran, Jerome B. Rice, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Times changed when the Albany and Rutland Railroad connected the Village of Cambridge to Rutland, Vermont, to the north, and New York's Capital District to the South; special excursion trains transported thousands of people annually to the Cambridge Fair which was held from the late 19th Century until World War II; and

WHEREAS, Since the Village's founding in 1866, its Main Street has represented the resilience of historic upstate New York communities by surviving years of population ebbs and flows, and economic upturns and downturns; and

WHEREAS, While time has taken its toll on some of Cambridge's brick and mortar, the key centerpieces to its Main Street which include Memo-

rial Park, the historic Cambridge Hotel, Hubbard Hall, and Varak Park, still remain as anchors which help guide architectural development, and are a source of pride; and

WHEREAS, With a conscious effort to avoid sprawl, there has been no migration of residential and commercial activity away from the Village's historic Main Street, but rather Main Street and its surrounding neighborhood, remain the focal point of economic, civil, social, and cultural activity for the local area; and

WHEREAS, A true gem, the impeccably groomed Memorial Park maintains an honor roll of all locals who have served in wartime back to the Revolutionary War; its centerpiece flagpole is located by a memorial to a local Medal of Honor veteran killed during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, The Cambridge Hotel was a social center of the Village through most of the 20th Century, and although it fell on hard times during the past 25 years, it was recently purchased and rehabilitated, opening last year as The Cambridge, a world-class assisted living facility; and

WHEREAS, Hubbard Hall which opened in the 1870s as the local opera house, closed in the 1920s and was reopened in the 1970s as a center for the arts; it now maintains a year-round schedule of classes and performances, also gaining recognition as the last surviving opera house in Washington County, New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Varak Park which began as the home for a major nationally-known seed company in 1895, has since been re-purposed as a home for artisans and small commercial entities; the Village of Cambridge has a growing arts community to feed the imagination and a remarkably rich collective of civic improvement organizations in which citizen volunteers keep the Village moving ahead; and

WHEREAS, Of historic origin, and remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Village of Cambridge continues to provide the quintessential quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, The residents of the Village of Cambridge have a bright outlook for the future of their community, which remains a beautiful place in which to live, work and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Village's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited town upon the occasion of its 150th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Cambridge, New York, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Village of Cambridge.