

2015-J5659

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Unitarian Church of Barneveld, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Unitarian Church of Barneveld, New York to be celebrated at its Annual Pilgrimage on Sunday, June 19, 2016; and

WHEREAS, This momentous Bicentennial Celebration will feature a talk on architectural history and an art show; and

WHEREAS, The Unitarian Church of Barneveld is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) a denomination formed in 1961, after the merger of two religious traditions: the Universalists, who organized in America in 1793, and the Unitarians, who organized in America in 1825; and

WHEREAS, The Unitarian Church of Barneveld's religious society was formed in 1803 by Francis Van der Kemp, Adam Mappa, and Luther Guiteau, immigrants from Holland who unsuccessfully sought to establish representative government in their home country; and

WHEREAS, The early founders of the Unitarian Church of Barneveld strived to emphasize democracy and freedom within their church community, and based membership on good moral character rather than on doctrinal statements; and

WHEREAS, In 1816, construction was completed on the Unitarian Church of Barneveld's beautiful church edifice; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past two centuries, this esteemed religious institution has stood as a monument to those who believe in the right of individuals to govern themselves and make up their own minds in the realm of ultimate beliefs and commitment; and

WHEREAS, Although small in numbers, the Unitarian Church of Barneveld's influence has emanated far beyond the village limits, affecting the lives of numerous men and women throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, The Unitarian Church of Barneveld stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Unitarian Church of Barneveld, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Unitarian Church of Barneveld, New York.