

## 2015-J5847

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Frost Valley YMCA upon the occasion of celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Frost Valley Castle in Claryville, New York, on August 27, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those organizations which seek to bring recognition to historical places within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present 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 commend the Frost Valley YMCA upon the occasion of observing the 100th Anniversary of Frost Valley Castle in Claryville, New York, at a Castle Centennial Celebration Gala on Saturday, August 27, 2016; and

WHEREAS, In addition, on Saturday, June 11, 2016, the Friends of the Castle will open Frost Valley Castle's doors to local community families, providing tours and activities highlighting the rich history of the magnificent Castle, as well as the growth of its surrounding communities over the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, On that same day, the public is invited to view the Castle Centennial Art Show, an exhibit of artwork inspired by the Castle featuring local artists and students at the Blue Hill Art Gallery and Event Center in Claryville; and

WHEREAS, The Frost Valley YMCA has come a long way since its founding in 1885, as Camp Wawayanda, the nation's first overnight camp for boys located in New Jersey; throughout the years, many things have changed, including a move to Claryville, New York, and a name change to Frost Valley YMCA, however, its values have remained the same; and

WHEREAS, A non-for-profit charitable organization, the Frost Valley

YMCA is guided by eight fundamental principles, Caring, Community, Diversity, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Respect, Responsibility, and Stewardship, all of which have seen this vital organization through powerful transformation over the decades, as Frost Valley Castle has grown to become one of the premier outdoor camping, group retreat, and environmental education centers in the world; and

WHEREAS, In 1916, Julius Forstmann, founder of the Forstmann Woolen Company, broke ground on what would become known as the Forstmann Castle; for 40 years, this exceptional 2,200 acre property in the Catskill Mountains, would serve as his family summer home; and

WHEREAS, On Christmas Eve of 1956, Julius Forstmann and YMCA executives agreed on terms which would allow the organization to purchase the property and make it the new home of Camp Wawayanda, which would eventually become the Frost Valley YMCA; and

WHEREAS, The estate included the main house, which was comprised of 40 rooms, seven fireplaces, and six baths; as well as a dairy farm with 12 buildings, and 22 Holstein cows, 14 heifers, and a bull; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than 35,000 people visit Frost Valley Castle each year; history buffs enjoy exploring the spectacular rooms adorned with cherry, butternut and maple woodwork while walking on floors made of teak and oak parquet; enthusiasts also admire the lovely antiques which exemplify a bygone era; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the last six decades, Forstmann Castle, has continued to stand as a symbol of Frost Valley YMCA's past accomplishments and future aspirations; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the Frost Valley Castle, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a place

and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commend the Frost Valley YMCA upon the occasion of celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Frost Valley Castle in Claryville, New York, on August 27, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Frost Valley YMCA, and the Friends of the Castle.