

2015-J5925

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Mechanicville District Public Library to be celebrated on June 18, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Mechanicville District Public Library to be celebrated on June 18, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The first principal of Mechanicville District School, Lymann Blakeman, established the first library in the school basement, open two afternoons a week to students and the public; and

WHEREAS, Lymann Blakeman was assisted by Jessie Walker, who attended library school in Albany where Melvil Dewey himself kept careful watch over her; and

WHEREAS, Melvil Dewey came from Albany to Mechanicville and lectured on, "How to form a public library"; and

WHEREAS, In succeeding years, Blakeman Library had a dual role, serving the public and students, but no clear cut lines of responsibility were established; plans for a new high school in 1965 made no provisions for public service; and

WHEREAS, The Public Library Development Committee met for the first time in June of 1965; after much work and deliberation of what kind of library to have, on May 5, 1966, by a vote of 574-130, The Mechanicville District Public Library was established; and

WHEREAS, The charter for the library was granted by the Board of

Regents on June 24, 1966 and an agreement for inclusion in the South Adirondack Library System was made on June 28, 1966; and WHEREAS, With Elizabeth Morse serving as its first Director, the Mechanicville District Public Library opened to the public in an old brick house at 15 South Main Street in February of 1967; deemed as temporary quarters, vast efforts were made toward construction of a new building; and

WHEREAS, Carmine DeCrescente donated land for the new library site; in July of 1995, voters passed a referendum approving the necessary funds to construct a new library at 190 North Main Street; and

WHEREAS, The Mechanicville District Public Library moved into a brand new building at 190 North Main Street in February of 1997, and became more of a multimedia center, striving to accomplish the goals set out in its mission, to be a window to the world for the City of Mechanicville; and

WHEREAS, Through various materials and programs offered, the library has worked to be a center of the Mechanicville community; subsequently, in February of 2011, voters passed a referendum approving the construction of an addition and renovation of the building as the community had outgrown the facility; and

WHEREAS, As of 2015, the Mechanicville District Public Library holds over 40,500 items such as audiobooks, books, magazines, movies, and music; and

WHEREAS, The Ellsworth Room houses historical materials including newspapers on microfilm, directories and high school yearbooks, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, The internet is accessible through 16 computer stations along with diverse databases; and

WHEREAS, The new DeCrescente Reading Room and Children's Room host many library programs throughout the year; and 2016 will mark the Mechanicville District Public Library's 50th Anniversary of serving the

community; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Mechanicville District Public Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported the development of the library over the years; and

WHEREAS, Equally commendable are the Mechanicville District Public Library's superbly-skilled staff, whose involvement is and has always been characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all of their efforts on behalf of the library and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Mechanicville District Public Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Mechanicville District Public Library to be celebrated on June 18, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Mechanicville District Public Library.