

2015-J6101

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the dedication of the Jan W. Bowers Museum on June 18, 2016, and honoring the memory of this beloved historian

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the dedication of the Jan W. Bowers Museum by the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society on Saturday, June 18, 2016, at its New York State Path Through History Event, and to honor the memory of this beloved historian; and

WHEREAS, During the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society's final meeting in 2015, the organization's body of members voted to name its original museum site, the Jan W. Bowers Museum; and

WHEREAS, Jan W. Bowers is being posthumously honored, in part, for her role as the organization's first curator; it was she who consulted with a group of professionals to install the museum's original displays, some as they remain to date; and

WHEREAS, Born in Maine, New York, in 1935, to Dr. and Mrs. Clement Bowers, Jan W. Bowers grew up in her family's home at Bowers Corner; and

WHEREAS, Jan W. Bower's affiliation with the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society and its museum began when she visited the Hamlet of Maine during its 125th Anniversary celebration in 1973; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Jan W. Bowers discovered the Nanticoke Valley's fledging Historical Society had corroborated with the Town of Maine's local government, churches, service organizations and much of its population to relive the Hamlet's rural past during a weekend festival held in May of that year; and

WHEREAS, It was estimated that more than 100,000 people celebrated the town's history during the event, and Jan W. Bowers was delighted that Maine successfully honored its past with so much community spirit and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Due in part to her personal interest in history and her desire to contribute to the formation of a historical society, Jan W. Bowers moved to Maine, New York, and began investing her efforts to help the organization succeed; and

WHEREAS, A true preservationist and historian, Jan W. Bowers made it her life work to keep the small community of Maine, New York, from losing its history in both words and architecture; and

WHEREAS, Jan W. Bowers was instrumental in the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society gaining its permanent charter in 1977, as well as its expansion to include five buildings: an 1830 Grist Mill, 1840 Norton Carriage Shops, 1845 one-room school house, and an 1870 Victorian house which includes two full floors of exhibits celebrating the rural life in Nanticoke Valley; and

WHEREAS, These buildings were acquired by and transferred to the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society by Jan W. Bowers and the Bowers Foundation which she established for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Jan W. Bowers has left her impact on many projects throughout Broome County, from donated archives of her family

to Binghamton University, to artwork and antiques to the Roberson Museum and Science Center in the City of Binghamton; and

WHEREAS, This exemplary woman clearly had an enduring impact on the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, as well as on the community-at-

large, and accordingly merits just tribute and recognition for the impressive dedication she had for her community throughout her life; and WHEREAS, The dedication of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society's museum, where Jan W. Bowers led with such talent, zeal, and joy is a fitting tribute to a life well-lived and a life worth remembering, a lasting memorial to an individual who gave honor and dignity to the preservation of her community; and

WHEREAS, The Jan W. Bowers Museum will long endure as an inspiration and legacy to all who had the privilege and honor of knowing her, and to future generations of the Nanticoke Valley community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the dedication of the Jan W. Bowers Museum on June 18, 2016, and honoring the memory of this beloved historian; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Jan W. Bowers.