

2015-J6190

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Saratoga County Fair, in Ballston Spa, New York

WHEREAS, Fairs and festivals empower communities to attract new visitors while capitalizing on local commercial and cultural value; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to recognize and support events of significance which contribute to the entertainment and vitality of the communities they serve and which exemplify the history and development of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Saratoga County Fair to be held July 19-24, 2016, at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, in Ballston Spa, New York; and

WHEREAS, The first Saratoga Fair was in 1819 but after a major economic downturn all funds for the fair were cut off and from 1825 to 1840 there was no fair until in 1841 the newly reorganized fair first opened; and

WHEREAS, Over time the fair had seven homes until the Saratoga County Agricultural Society took over the Union Fairgrounds in 1882; and

WHEREAS, The Saratoga County Fairgrounds and Expo Center was opened for the first time in 1871 as the Union Fairgrounds, and were taken over by the Saratoga County Agricultural Society in 1882 when they moved from Saratoga Springs to Ballston Spa; and

WHEREAS, Starting with less than 20 acres including parking, over the years the Fairgrounds have grown to 30 acres of exposition area and facilities, and another 24 acres of parking; and

WHEREAS, The existing Grandstand was the second one on the property, built in 1896, following the collapse of the original in 1895 during the

Fair; the Grandstand, the Judging Stand (facing the Grandstand), and the large white barn on the south fence line near Gate 6 are the oldest structures on the Fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, The newest buildings were built in 2015; the new TRUSTCO Talent Building, the new 8,000 square foot Adirondack Trust Building on the east border of the Horse Arena, and the new 6,000 square foot open animal pavilion on Shrivel's Way; and

WHEREAS, Also beginning in 2015 was the renovation of the Clements Family pavilion into the new commercial kitchen and dining building that 4-H Teen Council uses during fair week, and is available the rest of the year for the other events which occur at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds and Expo Center; and

WHEREAS, Altogether, the Saratoga County Fairgrounds and Expo Center offers 22 buildings of different style and character, large open spaces, paved roads, a 250' X 150' show quality horse ring with covered bleachers and announcing stand, permanent rest rooms for up to 4,000 people, plus shower facilities, and 77 RV campsites with water and electric hook ups; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Saratoga County Fairgrounds and Expo Center hosts car shows, truck and tractor shows, motorcycle shows, dog shows, and festivals of all sorts such as balloon, craft, beer, food, and music, swap meets and garage sales; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those organizations that have brought entertainment and cultural enrichment to the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Saratoga County Fair's rich legacy and enduring contribution to the entertainment and heritage of the State of New York, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to join in the cele-

bration to ensure that present and future generations may come to appreciate the unique significance which its history plays in the progression of our State and Nation's evolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Saratoga County Fair; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Saratoga County Fair Committee.