

2015-J6349

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Cultural Festival at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, New York, from July 8-10, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations and events which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Cultural Festival in Kerhonkson, New York, to be celebrated July 8-10, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Organized by the Ukrainian National Foundation, Inc., (UNF), the Ukrainian Cultural Festival was an astounding success in 2015, with over 5,000 attendees of all ages; and

WHEREAS, At this year's Festival, people can listen to several Ukrainian musical groups such as an a cappella ensemble, Pikkardiyska Tertsiya, and an international rock band, Vopli Vidopliasova, which will include their lead vocalist and accordionist Oleh Skrypka and Vasyl Popadiuk, the international violin virtuoso; and

WHEREAS, In addition, visitors can participate in the Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop and listen to the Dumka Chorus and to Oksana Mukha; and

WHEREAS, Festival goers can also view numerous cultural exhibits and try different foods in an extensive court, buy items from interesting vendors and have a drink at the Beer Garden where you will enjoy continuous music of various bands; and

WHEREAS, Spectators can also enjoy the Ukrainian Village Exhibit,

where artisans will exhibit and demonstrate life in the village, and dance at the Zabava; Sunday will feature younger talented artists at their own concert; and

WHEREAS, Incorporated in 1992, the UNF is organized under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine; its Soyuzivka Heritage Center is nestled on 400 acres in the Shawanagunk mountain range of the Catskill region of New York State; and

WHEREAS, The UNF supports a multitude of various projects for the benefit of the community; these projects are primarily focused on the preservation of Ukrainian heritage and recording the contribution this ethnic community has had in the United States; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization also sponsors community cultural events, provides classes in Ukrainian folk art, language classes, grants scholarships to Americans of Ukrainian descent and offers programs which range from assisting new immigrants embrace their new life in America through publishing informative brochures, to teaching and informing various generations of Ukrainian-Americans about their heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS, The Soyuzivka Heritage Center strives to cultivate, promote, sponsor and encourage appreciation and public interest in the rich cultural heritage of Ukraine and Ukrainian Americans; and

WHEREAS, The Ukrainian Cultural Festival is organized annually in support of a host of programs conducted at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center; during the summer of 2016, the Center is hosting numerous events including two children's heritage summer camps, Ukrainian dance workshop, two sports camps, a week long seminar for American parents adopting children from Ukraine, and a special Seniors' Conference; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2000 United States Census figures, there are over 1,000,000 Ukrainian-Americans living in the United States; these people are a vital part of our Nation's culturally diverse mosaic; and

WHEREAS, Historically, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois

and Michigan have the largest concentration of Ukrainian-Americans; over 125,000 New York residents are of Ukrainian descent; and

WHEREAS, Events such as the Ukrainian Cultural Festival are an attractive venue for bringing members of our community together to celebrate our common heritage; the festival also attracts many citizens of Slavic descent of which there are approximately over 15,000,000 members; and WHEREAS, A cherished event, the Ukrainian Cultural Festival provides a uniquely warm environment that attracts all different types of people who come to taste the authenticity of Ukrainian food and enjoy its heritage; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize those important events which remind us of the rich and diverse heritage of our great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Events which celebrate diversity and peace contribute to fulfilling our Nation's great legacy of equal opportunity for all, and do so profoundly enhance our shared commitment to freedom and justice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Cultural Festival in Kerhonkson, New York, from July 8-10, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Ukrainian National Foundation, Inc.