

2015-K1569

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library

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 75th Anniversary of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library; and

WHEREAS, At a press conference held on December 10, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt explained the need for a place to keep his own papers after his presidency, saying, "For the last two years I have been considering more and more the final disposal of what amounts to probably the largest collection of original source material of almost anybody over the last quarter of a century"; and

WHEREAS, The first President to make the White House material available to the public, President Roosevelt dedicated the nation's first Presidential Library and Museum on June 30, 1941 in Hyde Park, New York--his home--with a small ceremony attended by close friends and community members that drew approximately 2,000 local residents; and

WHEREAS, His closing remarks were, "The dedication of a library is in itself an act of faith. To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men and women in the future, a Nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its own people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment in creating their own future"; and

WHEREAS, The Library became the first Presidential Library, a repository for papers of associates and contemporaries and was maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration, which President Roosevelt established through legislation he signed into law to preserve the

nation's history and records of not only his own administration, but a significant period in American and international history; and
WHEREAS, The Library includes collections donated by President Roosevelt's colleagues and advisors: U.S. Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to the U.S. Cabinet; New Deal architect Harry L. Hopkins; New York Herald reporter and advisor Louis M. Howe; U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr.; presidential speechwriter Samuel I. Rosenman, and others who were actively involved in shaping Roosevelt's presidency; and
WHEREAS, After President Roosevelt's death on April 12, 1945, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt returned home to Val-Kill in Hyde Park and maintained an interest in the Library's oversight, including ceremonies and events surrounding the site, throughout the rest of her life; and
WHEREAS, When Eleanor Roosevelt died on November 7, 1962, she donated massive collections of papers to the Library -- nearly two million pages; Eleanor's papers contained correspondence from her years in and after the White House, copies of her newspaper column "My Day", transcripts from her many radio broadcasts and much more; and
WHEREAS, By 1970, the Library began constructing the Eleanor Roosevelt Wings to accommodate Eleanor's materials and the ever-increasing visitorship; by 1972 the Wings were dedicated and included a new exhibition gallery and increased storage and workspace for the Library; and

WHEREAS, The Library has made a mission of encouraging local youth to visit the Library to pique and increase interest in world history that happened in the Hudson Valley: In 1989 a unique program was launched to invite students to view Top Secret government records and more recently interactive and touch screen displays were introduced throughout the installations; and

WHEREAS, In May 2010, the Library underwent renovations to bring the Library up to the National Archive's standards for the preservation of historic collections while carefully preserving the building's historic appearance; and

WHEREAS, The Library was rededicated to the American people on June 30, 2013, after completion of its \$41 million renovations which added permanent museum exhibits to tell the story of the Roosevelt's and their relationship with the people; and

WHEREAS, President Roosevelt identified himself as a farmer and the

large hay field between the Library and Albany Post Road--which he allotted for farm use--continues to be actively farmed till this day; and

WHEREAS, On June 12, 2014, acclaimed filmmaker Kenneth Burns visited the Library to preview his fourteen-hour documentary series, "The Roosevelts: An Intimate History," and to thank the Library staff for their support since 2009 while his production team researched the project; and WHEREAS, Upon the public airing of Kenneth Burn's PBS documentary "The Roosevelts: An Intimate History," in September of 2014, the Library's attendance doubled to 173,000 visitors in that year, the highest since 1989; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-five years after it was first dedicated in 1941, the Library has flourished, becoming a nationally-treasured and internationally-recognized tourist destination and a robust economic engine for our state and region; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished past, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library may take just pride in its unique historical contributions as it looks forward to continuing to serve President Roosevelt's dream; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library.