

2019-J1081

Senate Resolution No. 1081

BY: Senator HELMING

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the Geneva
Rotary Club on April 27, 2019

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens 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 100th Anniversary of the Geneva Rotary Club to be celebrated at a Gala on Saturday, April 27, 2019, at Club 86 in Geneva, New York; and

WHEREAS, The world's first service club, Rotary International was founded on February 23, 1905, when Paul Harris, a native of Vermont, found himself a stranger in the city of Chicago; he conceived the idea of inviting three men of different vocations to join him weekly for fellowship and to discuss each other's problems and business; and

WHEREAS, Today, Rotary International has grown into an organization including over 1.2 million members in approximately 29,000 clubs across 163 countries; each club is made up of business and professional leaders who are dedicated to humanitarian service, encourage high ethical

standards in all vocations, and help to build peace and goodwill throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Just 14 years after Rotary International was founded, the Geneva Rotary Club, sponsored by the Elmira Rotary Club, was formed on May 12, 1919, with 25 charter members meeting at the Hotel Seneca; altogether, 92 Rotarians from Elmira, Auburn and Canandaigua watched the installation of the first officers which included Edward Dean, President; John Farwell, Vice President; and William Gracey, Secretary; and

WHEREAS, The Geneva Rotary Club has been instrumental in the evolution of the City and through the years, has supported numerous worthy organizations and humanitarian programs including Salvation Army Red Kettles, Geneva General Hospital, Student Loan Fund, Learn to Swim Campaign, Boy Scout Camp Babcock-Hovey, Boy Scout Troop 9, rheumatic fever clinics, orthopedic children's clinics, Geneva Public Library, minority youth support, Junior Rotarian program, Handicapped Children's Olympics, Community Chest/United Way, DARE, Annual Red Cross Blood Drive, Adopt-A-Highway Program, Rotaract Club, Happiness House and the School Backpack program; and

WHEREAS, The Club has also raised funds for various organizations through projects such as the Rotary Review, public lectures, travelogues, pancake suppers, Radio Days, Lobster Raffle, Annual Community Dinner, Annual Rotary Golf Day/Steak Roast, poinsettia sales, Santa Train Express, Fall Festival Express, and a Radio Auction as well as a Service Above Self Dinner; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Geneva Rotary Club is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an

unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, For 100 years, the Geneva Rotary Club has truly strived to always put service above self; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Geneva Rotary Club; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Geneva Rotary Club.