

2023-J37

Senate Resolution No. 37

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 60th Anniversary of the Pratt
Northam Foundation

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Pratt Northam Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt Northam Foundation was established in 1962, and is named for the late C. Walter Pratt of Boonville, New York, and his cousin, the late Hazel Northam of Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Named after his father, C. Walter Pratt was born on March 6, 1888; educated in Boonville and Carthage, he defied his father's efforts to keep him out of the military ranks and volunteered for duty in World War I, serving as an ambulance driver in France; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge from the military, Walter Pratt returned to the Black River Valley area to join his father in the management of the Moyer & Pratt Mill in Lyonsdale, the Deere River Power Company in Copenhagen, the Island Mill in Carthage, and the family's

extensive timber tracts in the Adirondacks; and

WHEREAS, Walter's father, Charles W. Pratt, acquired large tracts of land in the Adirondacks and Vermont, from which the Pratt family built their timbering, paper-making and related business empire; together with Gordias HP Gould and John E. Haberer, Charles W. Pratt formed the Gould Paper Company in Lyons Falls in 1892; and

WHEREAS, Under his able leadership, the Gould Paper Company was later known as Georgia-Pacific Paper, then Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper, until it ceased operation in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pratt also owned the Island Paper Company in Carthage, which was incorporated on November 16, 1898, and operated until 1932; and

WHEREAS, The Island Paper Company purchased the Deere River Power Company plant, and Mr. Pratt and John Moyer formed a corporation, Moyer & Pratt, for the manufacture of paper on the Moose River at Lyonsdale, New York in 1923; and

WHEREAS, The Moyer & Pratt Mill later operated for many years as the Burrows Paper Company; a lifelong bachelor, Walter Pratt continued to operate the various family businesses until his death at his home on Schuyler Street in Boonville on June 13, 1961; and

WHEREAS, Hazel Northam was born to Wallace and Margaret Frazier Northam on December 11, 1887, in Watertown, New York; after attending

the Simmons School of Embalming and Mortuary Science in Syracuse, she became associated with her father and the late Charles Fox in the undertaking firm of Northam & Fox; and

WHEREAS, Relocating to Brooklyn, New York, Hazel Northam worked for the late Walter B. Cook Funeral Home, Inc. where she enjoyed a successful career; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to her community, Hazel Northam gave tirelessly of her time and energies to several local organizations, including faiths of all denominations; an avid Brooklyn Dodgers fan, she always had a season box seat and took time off work to see the team play; and

WHEREAS, After the death of Walter Pratt in 1961, it was determined that his cousin, Hazel Northam was the sole heir to his estate; it was during this time that she established the Pratt Northam Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt Northam Foundation, created at the direction of and funded from the estate of Hazel Northam, was officially incorporated on August 22, 1962; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Pratt Northam Foundation continues to serve as a catalyst to projects which improve the quality of life in the communities of the Black River Valley from Boonville to Carthage; the Foundation provides financial support to not-for-profit organizations and government agencies with an emphasis on projects which provide opportunities for young people and other innovative initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, over the past six decades, the Pratt Northam Foundation has distributed over \$8.25 million dollars for community projects, college scholarships, career internships, summer recreation programs and school-based advocates; 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 60th Anniversary of the Pratt Northam Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Pratt Northam Foundation.