

2013-J518

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the Burden Iron Works Museum upon the occasion of receiving its newest exhibit entitled Men in Progress

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the Burden Iron Works Museum upon the occasion of receiving its newest exhibit entitled Men in Progress; and

WHEREAS, Founded by Henry Burden, the Burden Iron Works was an iron works and industrial complex located on the Hudson River and Wynantskill Creek in Troy, New York, that once housed the Burden Water Wheel, the most powerful vertical water wheel in history; and

WHEREAS, An inventive genius, Henry Burden's horseshoe machine (1835) was capable of making 60 horseshoes a minute and was a technological wonder; his rotary concentric squeezer, a machine for working wrought iron, was adopted by iron industries world wide; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Henry Burden's hook-headed spike machine helped fuel the rapid expansion of railroads in the United States, supplying all the railroad spikes for the Long Island Railroad and the Baltimore-Ohio Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Bought by Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway in 1974, the Burden Iron Works Museum educates visitors not only about the history of iron working in South Troy, but also about the transformation of the region around the confluence of the Hudson and the Mohawk Rivers into the Silicon Valley of the nineteenth century, which continues to make important technological contributions to the nation; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Burden Iron Works Museum is to help the communities in the Capital District of New York to celebrate, to preserve, and to profit from their historic industrial legacy; and

WHEREAS, The Burden Iron Works Museum's newest exhibit, Men in Progress, is a gift from the lineal descendant of inventor Henry Burden, Henry Burden Chapin and his wife Betsy Dunham Chapin; and

WHEREAS, The painting, Men in Progress, is an 1863 Mezzotint composition depicting a fictional meeting of famous inventors sitting at a table with their inventions under a picture of Benjamin Franklin; some of the inventors include Samuel Colt, Cyrus McCormick, and Elias Howe; and

WHEREAS, Men in Progress also showcases a few inventors with New York connections including: Henry Burden, who is depicted with a model of his horseshoe-making machine; Joseph Henry of Albany, who discovered the principle of electromagnetic induction, was head of Albany Academy, professor at Princeton, and head of Smithsonian National Academy of Sciences; Eliphalet Nott, who was the former president of Union College and inventor of a new stove design; and John Ericsson who designed the U.S.S. Monitor; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those illustrious organizations which seek to bring recognition to historical places within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the Burden Iron Works Museum, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Burden Iron Works Museum upon the occasion of receiving its newest exhibit entitled Men in Progress; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Burden Iron Works Museum.