

2013-J958

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ohav Sholom of Merrick upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and nation to pay tribute to institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commending Ohav Sholom of Merrick upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, In the Spring of 1962, six Merrick, New York Jewish families joined together to found an Orthodox synagogue in Merrick, renting a store on Merrick Avenue in which to gather and pray; and

WHEREAS, Half a century later, the synagogue they founded, Congregation Ohav Sholom has 800 member families, is housed in a large brick building at 143 Merrick Avenue, about a half mile south of its original site, and is fully integrated into the fabric of the Merrick community's religious life; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its regular prayer services, Ohav Sholom of Merrick has a Hebrew School for children and young adults, a Sisterhood and Men's Club for its respective female and male members, continuing education classes, youth programming and holiday events and, it also engages in charitable work and efforts on behalf of Israel and issues of justice; and

WHEREAS, Having, of necessity, to postpone the celebration of its 50th Anniversary due to the havoc wreaked by Superstorm Sandy, Ohav Sholom of Merrick will now mark the milestone of its golden anniversary with events in the spring and fall of 2013; and

WHEREAS, The first part of the festivities will take place on May 4 and 5, 2013, when Ohav Sholom of Merrick will honor Rabbi Jeremiah Wohlberg, its rabbi for 47 of its 50 years, from 1963 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, During its Shabbat service on Saturday, May 4, 2013, Congregation Ohav Sholom will dedicate its sanctuary to Rabbi Wohlberg and the

rabbi will once again speak from its pulpit; Ohav Sholom will pay further tribute to Rabbi Wohlberg, as well as past synagogue presidents, at a festive dinner on May 5, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Ira Ebbin, who has led Congregation Ohav Sholom since Rabbi Wohlberg's retirement in 2010, works diligently to ensure that the synagogue remains committed to the Orthodox tradition, but one which is modern, open and welcoming; and

WHEREAS, Ohav Sholom of Merrick, in addition, takes just pride in its warm and welcoming feeling and its commitment to the Merrick community; it holds a second Passover seder which is open to everyone from the community, blood drives, monthly bingo games, and as many community-type programs as it can; and

WHEREAS, During Superstorm Sandy Ohav Sholom of Merrick opened its doors to the community, providing food and shelter and a place to charge their cell phones; and

WHEREAS, Ohav Sholom of Merrick's 50th Anniversary celebration will continue with two special events in Fall 2013, a reunion of graduates of Ohav Sholom of Merrick's Hebrew School and a "Women at Ohav" program featuring a scholar-in-residence weekend and tributes to past presidents of Ohav Sholom's Sisterhood; and

WHEREAS, Remaining faithful to its mission of serving its congregation, its community and Judaism, Ohav Sholom of Merrick may look with pride and satisfaction upon its many years of purposeful service; and

WHEREAS, Today Ohav Sholom of Merrick stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of the Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Ohav Sholom of Merrick, New York, upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 4th and 5th, 2013, confident that this tribute reflects its belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ohav Sholom of Merrick.