

2009-J24

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the Mohonk Mountain House upon the occasion of celebrating its 140th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the milestones of those exceptional recreational facilities which have positively impacted their communities and are a crucial element in the economy of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the Mohonk Mountain House upon the occasion of celebrating its 140th Anniversary on Saturday, September 12, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Mohonk Mountain House, also known as Lake Mohonk Mountain House, is a national historic landmark resort located on the Shawangunk Ridge in Ulster County, New York; its prominent location in the town of New Paltz is just beyond the southern border of the Catskill Mountains on the western side of the Hudson River; two important policy conferences of domestic and international significance have taken place at the hotel; and

WHEREAS, The Mohonk Mountain House has hosted many famous visitors over the years, such as industrialist John D. Rockefeller, naturalist John Burroughs, industrialist Andrew Carnegie, and American presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Rutherford B. Hayes, and Chester A. Arthur; former First Lady Julia Grant and religious leaders such as Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, Reverend Ralph W. Sockman, and 'Abdu'l Baha', the eldest son of Baha'i Faith founder Baha'u'llah, have also stayed there; and

WHEREAS, The historic resort is located on the shore of Lake Mohonk, which is half of a mile long and 60 feet deep; the main structure, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986, was built by Quaker twin brothers Albert and Alfred Smiley between 1879 and 1910; it has 266 guest rooms, including 28 tower rooms, an indoor pool and spa, and an outdoor ice-skating rink for winter use; and

WHEREAS, The picturesque setting of the resort on the lake was once featured in an original picture print by Currier & Ives; Mohonk means

"lake in the sky" in the native American Indian language; and
WHEREAS, The property has been owned and operated by descendants of the Smiley brothers since 1869; it consists of 2,200 acres and much of it is landscaped with meadows and gardens; the property adjoins 6,400 acres of the Mohonk Preserve, which is crisscrossed by 85 miles of hiking trails and carriage roads; and

WHEREAS, Bert Smiley, the great-grand-nephew of founder Albert Smiley, currently serves as the fourth generation president of the Victorian castle resort; throughout the years, Mohonk Mountain House has managed to maintain its 19th century charm while introducing amenities of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The Smiley Family conveyed portions of their property into the Preserve; they have received awards for the stewardship of their land and their early environmental awareness; a reciprocal agreement allows Preserve members and day visitors to visit the resort grounds, and there is a network of well-maintained trails that visitors can follow in all seasons; and

WHEREAS, Resort guests may participate in many activities, such as: horseback riding, playing golf, tennis, croquet, or shuffleboard; boating on the lake; touring a historic barn and greenhouse; taking a carriage ride; swimming or fishing; receiving a spa treatment; visiting the fitness center; attending concerts and lectures; and hiking mountain trails, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges the success of the Mohonk Mountain House and recognizes its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Mohonk Mountain House upon the occasion of celebrating its 140th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bert Smiley, President of the Mohonk Mountain House.