

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 9, 2016, as Blue Star Families' Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. dates back to World War II and is a support organization for mothers of children serving or who have served in the United States military; and

WHEREAS, The blue star flag was created in 1917 by an Army captain from Ohio; it quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in service; the organization itself was conceived during World War II in 1942; and

WHEREAS, The symbol of the blue star surrounded by a red rectangle represents hope and pride; Blue Star Mothers perform volunteer duties on the home front and work in hospitals and on civil defense; and

WHEREAS, The Blue Star Mothers organization is named after the signature blue stars, which mothers hang in their windows when their children are called to service, either stateside or overseas; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, there were approximately 30,000 Blue Star Mothers, and several thousand during the Korean and Vietnam wars; national membership, however, dropped to an all-time low of 1,200 during the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, Blue Star Mothers has gained 217 chapters with troops deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere; anxious mothers of servicemen and women are forming chapters nationwide, including the first Capital Region Blue Star Mothers group; and

WHEREAS, Darlene Ward and Kay Moody established New York State's second Blue Star chapter in Delmar, the first having been in Rochester, to encourage their children and to meet other military parents with whom they have much in common; and

WHEREAS, In December 2006, the small group of mothers met and discussed issues families face when their sons and daughters go off to war; in addition to supporting the needs of parents in the area, the members support the troops, sending Freedom Boxes, cards and good wishes; they also participate in veterans' projects on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, The charter for the Capital Region No. 2 Chapter was approved on February 6, 2007; since December 2006, its membership has grown to 135 members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 9, 2016, as Blue Star Families' Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and Karen Ferris-Fearnside, President, Capital Region No. 2 Chapter, Blue Star Mothers of America.