

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing February 14-20, 2016, as National Court Reporting and Captioning Week

WHEREAS, Since 3500 B.C., individuals have wanted the spoken word translated into text to record important thoughts and historic times, and have relied on scribes to accomplish this task; the profession of scribe was born with the rise of civilization; and

WHEREAS, In ancient Egypt, scribes were considered to be the literate elite, recording laws and other important documents and, since that time, have served as impartial witnesses to history; and

WHEREAS, Scribes were present with our Nation's founding fathers as the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights were drafted, and President Lincoln entrusted scribes to record the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Since the advent of shorthand machines, these scribes have been known as court reporters, and they have played a permanent and invaluable role in courtrooms across our country; court reporters are responsible for producing a complete, accurate, and secure legal transcript of courtroom proceedings, witness testimonies, and depositions; and

WHEREAS, Court reporters are also present in Congress and the New York State Legislature, transcribing the proceedings and preserving the words and actions of the lawmakers and guest speakers; and

WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are also responsible for the closed captioning seen scrolling across television screens, at sporting stadiums and in other community and educational settings, bringing information to millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans every day; and

WHEREAS, Today, court reporters and captioners throughout the Empire State and Nation work to preserve thought, preserve history, and support the cornerstone of our justice system, as well as serve the deaf and hard-of-hearing community by providing captioning and CART services; and

WHEREAS, Whether called the scribes of yesterday or the court reporters and captioners of today, the individuals who translate the spoken word into text and preserve our nation's history are truly the guardians of the record; and

WHEREAS, The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, broadcast and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) captioners, and legal videographers, has designated February 14-20, 2016, as National Court Reporting and Captioning Week; and

WHEREAS, This week-long event is designed to help celebrate the court reporting and captioning professions, as well as help raise public awareness about the growing number of employment opportunities in the career field; and

WHEREAS, Court reporters, captioners, CART providers, state court reporter associations, and court reporting schools around the country will participate in the week-long event by hosting an array of activities, such as visits to high schools to showcase the profession, open houses, Veterans History Project interviews, and media outreach initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Court Reporters Association (NYSCRA) is organizing Meet & Greet all around the State during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause to hereby recognize February 14-20, 2016, as National Court Reporting and Captioning Week; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of the Resolution, suitably engrossed, be trans-

mitted to the New York State Court Reporters Association (NYSCRA).