

BY: Senator COMRIE

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
July 28, 2017, as Buffalo Soldiers Day in the State
of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of events which evoke the historical, social and cultural development of this great State, and to pay tribute to the memory of individuals of remarkable courage and strength of character, whose purposeful lives embodied the spirit of the principles upon which this Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 28, 2017, as Buffalo Soldiers Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Buffalo Soldiers Day; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers Day is observed annually on July 28th; this day commemorates the formation in 1866 of the first regular Army regiments comprising African-American soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers, one of many African-American regiments raised during the Civil War, were established by Congress as the first peacetime all-black regiments in the regular United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Mark Matthews, who is now buried at Arlington National Cemetery, was the oldest living Buffalo Soldier at 111 years old when he died on September 6, 2005; and

WHEREAS, The segregated regiments were disbanded during the 1940s and 1950s as the United States armed forces embraced integration; and

WHEREAS, On the first Buffalo Soldiers Day in 1992, a monument to the Buffalo Soldier was dedicated at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas by General Colin Powell; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 28, 2017, as Buffalo Soldiers Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.