

BY: Senator HELMING

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
May 1-7, 2018, as Elks National Youth Week in the
State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to fraternal organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; 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 May 1-7, 2018, as Elks National Youth Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The Elk organization was founded in New York City on February 16, 1868, under the name "Jolly Corks" by 15 actors, entertainers, and others associated with the theater; in ensuing years, membership expanded to other professions; and

WHEREAS, Its mission is to inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share; and

WHEREAS, In 1904, the Elks made a commitment to "lay a solid foundation for the future; building the moral and physical character of American boys and girls, the leaders of tomorrow"; and

WHEREAS, Since then, the Elks have done much to fulfill that self-charged responsibility-and not for fanfare or publicity, but simply because they know it is the right thing to do; in fact, of everything the Elks do, perhaps nothing is more important than their work with the country's young people; and

WHEREAS, Like no other fraternal organization, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks celebrates the accomplishments of the country's youth; and

WHEREAS, The efforts of the Elks on behalf of the young, through youth organization and scholarships, and by sponsoring athletic and artistic endeavors, summer camps, and drug awareness programs, sew the seeds of accomplishment and commitment that benefit the whole nation; and

WHEREAS, This work and the generosity of the Elks help today's young people become tomorrow's scientists, industrialists, academic, artists,

athletes, and much more; and

WHEREAS, The first week in May each year, the Order hold its Elks National Youth Week, recognizing young people for their involvement with achievements in the community; and

WHEREAS, Traditionally, the Elks present awards and plaques to outstanding youngsters during the week, in addition to hosting teams, similar to those that are held all year, that provide young people with even greater changes to play an active role in their communities; and

WHEREAS, By their sponsorship of youth fairs, career nights, student government days, athletic and educational programs, clubs, and more, the Elks truly make a difference in the lives of many young people; and

WHEREAS, It is this caring commitment that makes the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks the fraternal organization most actively engaged in promoting strong and healthy futures for young people; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 1-7, 2018, as Elks National Youth Week 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.