

BY: Senator HELMING

COMMEMORATING the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (NHP), in Auburn, New York as the 414th unit of the National Park System

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; these institutions give positive definitions to the profile and disposition of the communities of the State of New York and profoundly strengthen our society with their commitment; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (NHP), in Auburn, New York as the 414th unit of the National Park System; and

WHEREAS, The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park recognizes the work of the fearless Underground Railroad conductor during her later years in life, when she was an active proponent of women's suffrage and other causes; and

WHEREAS, The park is committed to showcasing a more complete history of one of America's pivotal humanitarians who, at great risk, did so much to secure the freedom of hundreds of formerly enslaved people; her selfless commitment to a more perfect union is testament that one determined person, no matter her station in life or the odds against her, can make a tremendous difference; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman National Historical Park is located at the site where Harriet Tubman lived and worshipped in Auburn, New York, caring for family members and other formerly enslaved people seeking safe haven in the North; and

WHEREAS, The historic Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church, located within the park, was constructed in 1891 is directly connected to Harriet Tubman, her family, her many supporters and the African American community of the time; the rectory adjacent to the Church is located across the street from the For Hill Cemetery, the location of Harriet Tubman's grave; and

WHEREAS, The church as well as the park will provide a strong physical basis for telling the story of Tubman's years following the Civil War when she was active in the women's suffrage movement, in the AME Zion Church and in the establishment of a home for elderly, indigent African Americans; and

WHEREAS, The founding of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park symbolizes New York's great appreciation for Harriet Tubman's entire

life of service as a soldier for this country; the park ensures our ability to live by Tubman's core values of freedom, family, faith, community, justice, self-determination and equality; and

WHEREAS, The Tubman Historical Park will be a magnet for visitors that will tell the story of Harriet Tubman's life, and preserve her legacy as one of the greatest icons of American history for countless generations; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Foundation (NPF), the official charity of America's national parks, was instrumental in the effort to establish the park; by preserving the important places and artifacts related to the abolitionist and humanitarian Harriet Tubman, people will be able to discover how their unique experiences connect to her life and legacy; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (NHP), in Auburn, New York as the 414th unit of the National Park System; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Will Shafroth, President of the National Park Foundation.