

Assembly Resolution No. 521

**BY:** M. of A. Solages

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 10, 2017, as Belmont Stakes Day in the State of New York, and commending the New York Racing Association upon the occasion of the 149th running of the Belmont Stakes

**WHEREAS,** The Belmont Stakes is one of the most important sporting events in New York State; it is the conclusion of thoroughbred racing's prestigious three-contest Triple Crown; and

**WHEREAS,** Preceded by the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, the Belmont Stakes is nicknamed the "Test of the Champion" due to its grueling mile and a half distance; and

**WHEREAS,** The Triple Crown has only been completed 12 times; the 12 horses to accomplish this historic feat are: Sir Barton, 1919; Gallant Fox, 1930; Omaha, 1935; War Admiral, 1937; Whirlaway, 1941; Count Fleet, 1943; Assault, 1946; Citation, 1948; Secretariat, 1973; Seattle Slew, 1977; Affirmed, 1978; and American Pharoah, 2015; and

**WHEREAS,** The Belmont Stakes has drawn some of the largest sporting event crowds in New York history, including 120,139 people for the 2004 running of the race; and

**WHEREAS,** This historic event draws tens of thousands of horse racing fans annually to Belmont Park and generates millions of dollars for New York State's economy; and

**WHEREAS,** The Belmont Stakes is shown to a national television audience of millions of people on network television; and

**WHEREAS,** The Belmont Stakes is named after August Belmont I, a financier who made a fortune in banking in the middle to late 1800s; he also branched out into politics and New York society; and

**WHEREAS,** The fourth oldest stakes race in North America, the Belmont Stakes was first run in 1867 at Jerome Park for a purse of \$1500; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1973, Secretariat put together one of the greatest performances in sports history by taking the Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths in stakes record time to complete the Triple Crown; and

**WHEREAS,** The 2015 Triple Crown winner, American Pharoah, is the 12th horse to win the Triple Crown, and the first to win the Triple Crown in 37 years; and

**WHEREAS,** American Pharoah is the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed won the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes in 1978; and

**WHEREAS,** Horse racing is an integral part of New York as well as American history; on May 5, 1905, Thomas Edison made one of the first recorded videos in history at the grand opening of Belmont Park; and

**WHEREAS,** It is fitting and proper for this Legislative Body to take note of such a prestigious sporting event which brings great pride to the horse racing industry as well as all the citizens of this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** It is, in addition, of utmost importance to honor the sport of horse racing in New York State on its biggest day; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 10, 2017, as Belmont Stakes Day in the State of New York, and to commend the New York Racing Association upon the occasion of the 149th running of the Belmont Stakes; 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 to the New York Racing Association.