

Senate Resolution No. 1022

BY: Senator STEC

HONORING Joan Fuller Degener upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging in May of 2021

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Joan Fuller Degener upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging in May of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Each May, the New York State Office for the Aging pauses to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by older citizens during National Older Americans Month; and

WHEREAS, Members of older generations have helped build and shape our Nation to be the greatest in the world; they have defended our freedoms and values to ensure that those who come after them may have better lives; nowhere in the Nation is the legacy of their efforts more visible and more a part of the lives of all citizens than here in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Joan Fuller Degener has continually demonstrated extreme competence, extraordinary intelligence and diligent leadership in her unwavering service to her community and, consequently, has been selected for this most prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, Joan Fuller Degener grew up on a dairy farm in the beautiful valley of Welch Hollow, in Fort Ann, New York, with her parents, Samuel and Marion (Rathbun) Fuller, two sisters, Jean and Helen, and one brother, Harold; and

WHEREAS, A 1963 graduate of Fort Ann Central School, Joan Fuller Degener went on to pursue a teaching degree at Adirondack Community College and Castleton University before completing her graduate work at SUNY Plattsburgh; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of her studies, Joan Fuller Degener spent her illustrious 34-year career as an accomplished teacher of elementary students; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to her community, Joan Fuller Degener is very active in the West Fort Ann United Methodist Church and serves as an advocate and guardian for two sisters from her childhood who have disabilities and no family to take care of them; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to her community, Joan Fuller Degener is the founding member of the Fort Ann

Historical Society; she helped to research and write, **Fort Ann: 300 Years Of History**; she was also an active member of the Queen Anne Senior Citizens, and frequently takes trips with the Traveling Cardinals or The Old Stone House Library; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this extraordinary woman volunteers with programs for preschoolers and leads programs for elementary students at Fort Ann Central, introducing them to the library; and

WHEREAS, As a volunteer at Haynes House Of Hope in Granville, New York, a home for hospice patients, Joan Fuller Degener gives patients much needed emotional and physical support; in addition, she is a charter member and first president of the West Fort Ann Fire Company Ladies' Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Fort Ann, New York, Joan Fuller Degener continues to reside in the home she built with her husband which is nestled in the woods, surrounded by beauty and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Joan Fuller Degener is the proud mother of two children, Michelle and David, and the loving grandmother of her granddaughter, Shaye; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Joan Fuller Degener was an assistant leader for Girl Scout Troop 3267, the highlight of which was guiding her granddaughter to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, the first girl in Fort Ann to earn this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Joan Fuller Degener has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Joan Fuller Degener has enriched the lives of her family, friends and colleagues through her love and respect for others, and through the wisdom which comes from many years of living life to the fullest; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Joan Fuller Degener upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joan Fuller Degener.