

**BY:** Senator MANNION

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 20, 2022, as Wood Frog Day in the State of New York, for the many medicinal benefits the wood frog has to offer the human race and its existence in every county in New York State

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is proud to recognize unique attributes which exist in the wildlife throughout the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend Woody the Wood Frog, indigenous to Northeast North America, for his extraordinary physical characteristics and the many medicinal benefits he has to offer the human race; and

**WHEREAS,** The wood frog (or *Lithobates sylvaticus*) is usually a brown, tan or rust-color, with black markings that look similar to a mask; it can grow as long as three inches, and though it is found all over New York State, it is also found as far north as the Arctic Circle; and

**WHEREAS,** The elusive camouflaged amphibian can be found in every county in New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** With many admirable qualities, the wood frog has several unique physical adaptations which can be beneficial to human health research; currently, scientists are studying the wood frog with the hope of saving millions of lives; and

**WHEREAS,** One distinct attribute is the wood frog's ability to freeze in the winter and reanimate in the spring; when scientists discern this phenomenon, it will help to discover how organs for transplants can be frozen and then thawed, allowing for more time between harvesting an organ and transplanting it into the recipient; and

**WHEREAS,** A second unique feature is the wood frog's capability to stop its blood circulation and start it again without any damage; when researchers understand this process, heart attack and/or stroke victims will greatly benefit due to when stricken, blood flow stops and clots or other damage may occur; and

**WHEREAS,** The third exceptional trait is the wood frog's talent to tolerate blood sugar 100 times higher than humans; studies have been conducted regarding the glycation of wood frog hemoglobin and blood proteins which hold out promise for improved pharmacological approaches for the control of diabetes which afflicts over 29 million people in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Diabetes, the most rapidly growing chronic disease of our time, has become an epidemic that affects one out of every 12 adult New

Yorkers; to date, more than one million people from New York have been diagnosed with this serious disease; and

**WHEREAS,** The efforts and tenacity of the Wood Frog Club, led by frog enthusiast Lili Winkelman, are to be commended; in 2014, 4th grader Lili and her fellow students in Irene Manna's classroom at the State Street Intermediate School in Skaneateles, New York, had a dream to make the wood frog the official New York State amphibian; this year, they remain steadfast in their pledge to bring full recognition to this mighty amphibian and the many benefits he has to offer this great Empire State and the World as a whole; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 20, 2022, as Wood Frog Day in the State of New York, for the many medicinal benefits the wood frog has to offer the human race and its existence in every county in New York State; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; the members of the Wood Frog Club; and their Mentor Mr. Garrett.