

BY: Senator REICHLIN-MELNICK

COMMEMORATING the 175th Anniversary of Rockland Cemetery to be celebrated on May 21, 2022

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize milestones of significance which provide vital service to the communities 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 commemorate the 175th Anniversary of Rockland Cemetery to be celebrated on Saturday, May 21, 2022, with a Reception on the Front Lawn; and

WHEREAS, Rockland Cemetery, a non-profit and non-sectarian cemetery, was originally established with the vision of becoming a national cemetery for political notables and military heroes; and

WHEREAS, The Cemetery was organized in 1847 by Dr. Eleazar Lord who was an author, educator, and the first President of the Erie Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lord envisioned a cemetery that would become prominent as the final resting place for not only the deceased of the New York City area but would be a magnet for notables on a national scale; and

WHEREAS, With the foregoing as his plan, Dr. Lord brought his railroad and passengers with it to the little town of Piermont; almost overnight, the town became a flourishing rail and water hub between New York City and points north and west; and

WHEREAS, The original hamlet of Tappan Landing was renamed Piermont by Dr. Lord; and

WHEREAS, History intervened and, according to an earlier chronicler, the Erie Railroad received a belated charter from the State of New Jersey requiring it to run its trains directly from Suffern, New York to Jersey City, New Jersey; Piermont, and Rockland Cemetery with it, was left in the backwater of progress; and

WHEREAS, In 1880, a group of Piermont residents raised \$50,000.00 toward the development of roads, bridges and other necessary improvements to facilitate access to the Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, There was significant interest to make Rockland Cemetery a national cemetery; General John C. Fremont was interred there in 1890 with high hope that he might be the first of many prominent Americans to be buried there; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to observe events which symbolize the historical, social, and cultural development of this great Empire State and embody the principles upon which this Nation was

founded; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of Rockland Cemetery to be celebrated on Saturday, May 21, 2022; and

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Staff and Board of Directors of the Rockland Cemetery.