

BY: Senator RITCHIE

CONGRATULATING Laura Foster upon the occasion of her retirement after 31 years of distinguished service to the Frederic Remington Art Museum

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, For the past 31 years, Laura Foster rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Frederic Remington Art Museum at 303 Washington Street in Ogdensburg, New York; in her capacity as Executive Director, she served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, A native of Potsdam, New York, Laura Foster earned her degree at the College of Wooster in Ohio; after graduation, she returned to the North Country and joined the staff at the Frederic Remington Art Museum in October of 1989, serving in various roles including curator, and for the last seven years, Executive Director, the position from which she will officially retire; and

WHEREAS, A widely-recognized expert on Frederic Remington's works, Laura Foster has devoted her career to educating community members and numerous visitors from around the world about Canton, New York native Frederic Remington, a renowned American artist best known for his works depicting cowboys, soldiers and Native Americans of the Old West; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Laura Foster, the Frederic Remington Art Museum houses a comprehensive collection of original Remington paintings, sketches and sculptures, as well as a broad array of personal effects and correspondence which serve to bring the artist and his vision to life; and

WHEREAS, Through her steadfast and unremitting commitment, Laura Foster has made it possible for people both near and far to view the great works of this master through the museum's galleries and various art exhibitions held throughout the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Laura Foster has stabilized revenues and the museum's budget, overseen the restoration of the historic Parish mansion, which is the core of the museum's facility, and has continued to foster important, beneficial relationships within the American art community; and

WHEREAS, Laura Foster also led a project to digitize many pieces of the museum's vast collection, including Frederic Remington's many sketchbooks and thousands of drawings; worked on a new exhibit dedicated to Sally James Farnham, an internationally acclaimed American sculptor who was born in Ogdensburg; and played a key role in the implementation of the Frederic Remington Art Museum's five-year strategic campaign, along with the launch of the museum's most recent comprehensive

fundraising campaign which will culminate with the organization's centennial in 2023; and

WHEREAS, In her final months as Executive Director, Laura Foster led her staff and the museum through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, successfully working to sustain the museum during a turbulent time for our region and world; and

WHEREAS, As a result of Laura Foster's tireless efforts over the course of the past 31 years, the Frederic Remington Art Museum has come to be known as a leading arts and cultural institution in New York State and within western and American art circles across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Laura Foster, through her dedication to the world of art and the Frederic Remington Art Museum, has brought the story of Frederic Remington to life, helping individuals from the North Country and beyond learn about his unparalleled talents; and

WHEREAS, As Laura Foster embarks upon a well-deserved retirement, she leaves behind an impact which will be felt for generations and a legacy of appreciation for culture and the arts that will continue to enrich the lives of many; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Laura Foster upon the occasion of her retirement and to wish her continued success in all future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Laura Foster.