

BY: Senator ORTT

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
May 15, 2021, as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the
State of New York

WHEREAS, New York State has long been committed to supporting its law enforcement professionals; and

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values, worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is moved to honor those individuals who serve to preserve and protect such values, lauding particularly their unwavering loyalty and dedication in the daily performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 15, 2021, as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Police Week; and

WHEREAS, This observance is to recognize National Police Week 2021 and to honor the service and sacrifice of those law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week; currently, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world gather together on May 15th in Washington, DC to participate in a number of planned events which honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial Service began in 1982, as a gathering in Senate Park of approximately 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement; decades later, the event, more commonly known as National Police Week, has grown to a series of events which attracts thousands of survivors and law enforcement officers to our Nation's Capital each year; and

WHEREAS, The National Peace Officers Memorial Service, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, is one in a series of events which includes the Candlelight Vigil, which is sponsored by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and seminars sponsored by Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.); and

WHEREAS, National Police Week draws in between 25,000 to 40,000 attendees who come from departments throughout the United States as well as from agencies throughout the world, providing a unique opportunity to meet others who work in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, During National Police Week, the Fraternal Order of Police

DC Lodge No. 1 sponsors receptions each afternoon and evening which are open to all law enforcement personnel and are an experience unlike any other; and

WHEREAS, New York State built its own Police Officers Memorial at the Empire State Plaza near the State Capitol Building in the City of Albany, New York, and holds the annual Remembrance Ceremony to honor the memory and sacrifice of police officers from around New York State who have been slain in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial was designed by the New York State Office of General Services based on a design concept submitted by Colleen Dillon Bergman, daughter of State Trooper Emerson J. Dillon Jr. who was slain in the line of duty in 1974 after 16 ½ years of service with the New York State Police; a quote from Mrs. Bergman's letter is engraved on the nameplate wall, "It doesn't matter from which department they came, the feeling of loss is experienced the same"; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when events such as the dedication of Peace Officers Memorial Day are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, May 15, 2021, is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of all fallen officers and their families; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the long-standing efforts of law enforcement in the State of New York which diligently contributes to the efficient operation of our criminal justice system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 15, 2021, as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the State of New York; 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; the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund; the Concerns of Police Survivors; and the Fraternal Order of Police.