

Assembly Resolution No. 697

BY: M. of A. Sayegh

memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
March 1, 2022, as National Horse Protection Day in
the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that all living creatures have value and to recognize and appreciate the service, companionship, loyalty, unconditional love and happiness animals bring to the lives of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 1, 2022, as National Horse Protection Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, From her love of horses from the years she spent as a child learning to ride and care for them, Pet lifestyle expert and animal behaviorist/advocate Colleen Paige founded National Horse Protection Day in March of 2005 to educate the global horse community to the plight of horses in dire need of adoption and to celebrate their magic and embrace humane horse sports worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Horses were humanity's companions through our brightest days and darkest hours; aside from the dog, horses have been man's best friend for centuries, carrying them cross-country, being their faithful comrades in battle, pulling the wagons that carried their families, their supplies and materials for their homesteads; and

WHEREAS, By being a key component in trade and agriculture, horses have enabled mankind to develop civilizations; many families would not have had a home if it were not for the tireless efforts of their true-blue horse, hauling hundreds of pounds of supplies and water back and forth for miles and weeks at a time; and

WHEREAS, The importance of horses has been recognized by mankind from time immemorial; Lascaux cave paintings in southern France, dated to c.15000 BCE, contain 3,600 depictions of horses, and in Homeric poetry, the Greek heroes of legend rode horses into battle, hid soldiers inside a wooden horse and one of them even had a conversation with his horse; and

WHEREAS, In American culture, horses are symbols of freedom; for example, we owe a debt of gratitude to the horse that carried Paul Revere on his mission to warn his fellow Patriots of the oncoming British attack, and the American Western genre, which has captured the imaginations of artists from all over the world, would be incomplete without horses; and

WHEREAS, The inhumane treatment of animals violates every value of decency we Americans hold dear; it's almost unfathomable that this proud and beautiful country could stand behind the cruelty and murder of such

proud and beautiful animals for so long, our friends, the frequent guests of childhood lullaby's and dreams; and

WHEREAS, It is vital that we encourage empathy and compassion for our horses, and that we provide a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, On March 1, 2022, animal advocates, supporters, owners, and citizens come together to protect, and acknowledge all horses' positive contribution to society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 1, 2022, as National Horse Protection Day in the State of New York; 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 Empire City Casino and Racetrack, and the Standardbred Owners Association of New York.