

BY: Senator WALCZYK

CONGRATULATING Garrett Phelps upon the occasion of being named the National Grange Youth Ambassador on November 17, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Garrett Phelps upon the occasion of being named the National Grange Youth Ambassador on November 17, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The National Grange, founded in 1867, is a nonpartisan, fraternal organization which advocates for rural America and agriculture; it provides its members with the opportunity to serve their neighborhoods through community service projects that make a difference in the lives of citizens; and

WHEREAS, The National Grange Youth Program is designed to provide leadership training and life skills training opportunities; the goals of the National Grange Youth Development department include providing leadership training through a variety of opportunities such as: regional conferences, ambassador programs, the John Trimble Legislative Experience, mentoring programs, and the national convention; and

WHEREAS, The National Grange works with the Junior Grange department in creating opportunities for older Junior Grange members to begin their transition into the Subordinate Grange by encouraging youth to be mentors to those older juniors and by providing opportunities for them to become involved in the Achievement Award Program; and

WHEREAS, This year's National Grange Youth Ambassador, Garret Phelps of Copenhagen, New York, is a senior at Lowville Academy and Central School, and will attend SUNY Morrisville to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Grange for many years, Garret Phelps has held the esteemed positions of: South Rutland Valley Grange Member (since 2017), New York State Grange Youth Ambassador (2022-2023), South Rutland Valley Grange Lecturer (2023-2024), and Jefferson County Pomona Grange Steward (2022-2024); and

WHEREAS, Garret Phelps demonstrates his pride and care for his community through his active involvement in numerous activities, such as membership with the Lowville FFA Chapter, where he held the positions of reporter, secretary, and sentinel student advisor; he also participates in Junior Holstein Club, 4-H Dairy Club, High School Musical, and Dairy

Prospects; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Garret Phelps has been a member of his school's student government, varsity swimming team, and varsity tennis team, always serving as a model student and athlete; and

WHEREAS, Garrett Phelps lives on a small hobby farm with his parents Melvin and Jennifer Phelps; he has spearheaded many projects in agriculture, including starting a small orchard, producing maple syrup, raising meat birds and beef cattle, as well as showing registered Brown Swiss cattle at the Jefferson County Fair; and

WHEREAS, Introduced to the Grange at a young age by his father, Garret Phelps quickly became active in many Grange-related activities, and at the 2023 National Grange Convention, he was selected as a National Grange Youth Ambassador, an esteemed and coveted position in which he will spend the next year serving the Grange as part of the National Grange Youth Leadership Team; and

WHEREAS, Garret Phelps takes great pride in his new role and plans to foster positive, impactful, and insightful change to the field of agriculture at a local, state, and national level through his service as National Grange Youth Ambassador; and

WHEREAS, With a passion for learning history, this esteemed honoree understands the meaningful connection between our past, how it relates to the future, and how to utilize such lessons bestowed upon us to achieve success as we move forward in an ever-evolving world; and

WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, Garret Phelps now stands honorably, with just pride in his accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges and endeavors; and

WHEREAS, With his sense of civic duty and his commitment to others, Garret Phelps represents the best development of the potential which is inherent in our most precious resource, our youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Garrett Phelps upon the occasion of being named the National Grange Youth Ambassador on November 17, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Garret Phelps, National Grange Youth Ambassador.