

Senate Resolution No. 1718

**BY:** Senator MAY

**RECOGNIZING** Tuesday, March 10, 2026, as Harriet Tubman Day

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor the extraordinary life, courage, and enduring legacy of Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist, humanitarian, and leader in the struggle for freedom who, through her fearless work on the Underground Railroad and her lifelong commitment to justice and equality, helped guide countless enslaved individuals to liberty and later made her home in the State of New York, where her legacy continues to inspire generations; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Auburn, Harriet Tubman's chosen hometown, will celebrate Harriet Tubman Day on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, with a full day of free public programming at the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, plus an evening program at the New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center; and

**WHEREAS,** In June of 2003, legislation was signed into law establishing March 10th as a Day of Commemoration in recognition of the lifetime achievements and enduring legacy of Harriet Tubman and her many accomplishments throughout the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** On November 11, 2024, the State of Maryland posthumously commissioned Harriet Tubman as a Brigadier General in recognition of her courageous service during the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS,** Harriet Ross Tubman was born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland circa 1820 and, like many enslaved individuals, was forced to work as a field hand from an early age; and

**WHEREAS,** Denied the opportunity to learn to read or write because of her race and status as an enslaved person, Harriet Tubman nevertheless rose above the severe limitations imposed upon her as both a slave and a Black woman; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1849, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery and traveled north to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she came into contact with William Still, a leading organizer of the Underground Railroad; and

**WHEREAS,** Through the efforts of William Still and the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society, Harriet Tubman became closely involved in the operations of the Underground Railroad, a secret network of individuals who provided aid, shelter, and guidance to enslaved people seeking freedom in the North; and

**WHEREAS,** Within a year of securing her own freedom, Harriet Tubman became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, courageously returning to the South numerous times to guide enslaved men, women, and children to liberty; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1851, Harriet Tubman relocated members of her family to St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, which served as an important base for her Underground Railroad activities and from which she continued her efforts to secure freedom for others; and

**WHEREAS,** In the mid-1850s, Harriet Tubman became acquainted with William H. Seward, United States Senator, Secretary of State, and former Governor of New York, and his wife, Frances Seward, in Auburn, New York; in 1857, the Seward family provided her with a home in Auburn, which later became her permanent residence; and

**WHEREAS,** From this home, Harriet Tubman continued her humanitarian work and, through the Underground Railroad, helped guide numerous enslaved individuals to freedom, proudly declaring that she "never ran her train off the track and never lost a passenger"; and

**WHEREAS,** During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman served with the Union Army in South Carolina as a nurse, cook, scout, and spy, providing critical intelligence and assistance to Union forces; and

**WHEREAS,** Following the war, Harriet Tubman returned to Auburn, New York, where she dedicated the remainder of her life to humanitarian causes and community service, including the establishment of a home for elderly and indigent African Americans; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1903, Harriet Tubman conveyed ownership of her property to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church so that her charitable work might continue; and

**WHEREAS,** After her death on March 10, 1913, Harriet Tubman was laid to rest with military honors at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The properties associated with her life and work in Auburn are today preserved as part of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, administered by the National Park Service, ensuring that her remarkable story will continue to educate and inspire future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** Revered by many as the "Black Moses," Harriet Tubman embodied the highest ideals of courage, perseverance, and selfless service, risking her own freedom and safety so that others might experience liberty; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize Tuesday, March 10, 2026, as Harriet Tubman Day in the State of New York, and to honor the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of Harriet Tubman.