Assembly Resolution No. 151

BY: M. of A. McDonald

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 6, 2023, as Missing Persons Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to create public awareness concerning the devastation occurring as a result of the unexplained disappearances of loved ones; 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 April 6, 2023, as Missing Persons Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Wednesday, April 6, 2023, is the observance of the 45th birthday of Suzanne Gloria Lyall, a University at Albany student who has been missing since 1998; this year, March 2, 2023, will mark the 25th Anniversary of when she disappeared; and

WHEREAS, A bright, creative and talented computer science student, Suzanne G. Lyall touched countless lives with her poetry, radiant personality and cheerful, infectious smile; and

WHEREAS, The youngest of the three children of Mary and the late Doug Lyall, Suzanne of Ballston Spa, New York, disappeared at the age of 19 in the prime of her life, while preparing for a brilliant future; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, legislation was enacted that required all colleges to adopt plans for the investigation of reports of missing students and of violent felony offenses occurring on their campuses, and further required that such plans include agreements with local police agencies for coordination of these investigations; the legislation also required the Division of Criminal Justice Services to operate a toll free 24-hour telephone number that members of the public may call to obtain information as to resources available to the public to assist in the location and recovery of missing persons; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, New York State passed legislation known as "Suzanne's Law," which provides for increased penalties for certain crimes committed on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York intends to make April 6, 2023, a day of recognition of the need to further enhance efforts to locate missing persons in New York, noting the missing persons epidemic in this State, and the impact this epidemic has on the families, people close to a missing individual, and the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Several thousand people are labeled as missing in New York State, many of whom are 18 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should

attempt to bring comfort to the family members of missing persons in the State of New York who suffer from continuous grieving and who are condemned to carry the burden of uncertainty as a result of not knowing the true circumstances of their loved one's disappearance or whereabouts; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body reaffirms its ongoing crusade by observing April 6, 2023, as Missing Persons Day in the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 6, 2023, as Missing Persons Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.