Senate Resolution No. 1530

BY: Senator GALLIVAN

HONORING Kelkenberg Farm upon the occasion of its designation as Large Business of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated on March 19, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those businesses whose longevity, leadership, and community engagement contribute significantly to the economic vitality and cultural fabric of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Kelkenberg Farm, a cherished agricultural and agritourism destination located in Clarence, New York, has been designated Large Business of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, an honor to be celebrated at the Chamber's 53rd Annual Awards Gala on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Samuel's Grande Manor in Williamsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Kelkenberg Farm is a multi-generation family farm operated by Patrick, Charlene, and Matthew Spoth, who together represent the heart and soul of an enterprise that has welcomed families, school groups, and visitors of all ages to experience authentic farm life since before 1980; and

WHEREAS, What began as a family hobby on land originally purchased by the Kelkenberg family has grown into a beloved destination that seamlessly blends agricultural tradition, education, and wholesome family entertainment, while remaining a working farm deeply rooted in the values of hard work and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Charlene Spoth's background in agricultural education has played a pivotal role in shaping the farm's school tours and educational programming, helping generations of children and visitors gain a meaningful understanding of farming, food systems, and the importance of agriculture in everyday life; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Spoth's deep farming roots, artistic craftsmanship, and hands-on leadership have ensured the continued success and sustainability of Kelkenberg Farm as a thriving agricultural operation; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, Matthew Spoth, representing the third generation of family leadership, returned to the farm, bringing fresh energy and perspective through his oversight of the market and food and beverage offerings, and by creating new farm-to-visitor experiences that enhance the guest experience while honoring the farm's heritage; and

WHEREAS, Today, Kelkenberg Farm employs more than 30 local community members, strengthening economic opportunity in Clarence and reinforcing the farm's role as a place where generations connect through shared work, learning, and celebration; and

WHEREAS, Under the stewardship of the Spoth family, Kelkenberg Farm has become more than a destination-it is a community hub where families create lasting memories, children learn through hands-on experiences,

and visitors enjoy seasonal events, hayrides, pony rides, and the welcoming atmosphere that reflects the family's passion for agriculture and community; and

WHEREAS, The Clarence Chamber of Commerce's recognition of Kelkenberg Farm as Large Business of the Year is a fitting tribute to an enterprise that exemplifies excellence, innovation, and community-centered values; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kelkenberg Farm upon the occasion of its designation as Large Business of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on March 19, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Patrick Spoth, Charlene Spoth, Matthew Spoth, Kelkenberg Farm.